



# PORTUGAL



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	1	Contact Addresses
	2	General
	3	Passport
	4	Money
	5	Duty Free
	6	Public Holidays
	7	Health
	8	Accommodation
	9	Sport & Activities
	10	Social Profile
	11	Business Profile
	12	Climate
	13	History and Government
	14	Overview

## 1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

**Location:** Western Europe.

Investimentos, Comércio e Turismo de Portugal (ICEP)  
(Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office)

Avenida 5 de Outubro 101, 1050-051 Lisbon, Portugal

**Tel:** (21) 790 9500. Fax: (21) 793 5028 or 795 0961.

**E-mail:** [dinf@icep.pt](mailto:dinf@icep.pt)

**Web site:** <http://www.portugal.org> or <http://www.icep.pt> or

<http://www.portugalinsite.pt>

Embassy of the Portuguese Republic

11 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PP

**Tel:** (020) 7235 5331-4. Fax: (020) 7245 1287 or 235 0739. Opening hours: 1000-1300 Monday to Friday.

Portuguese Consulate

## 2 GENERAL

Silver City House, 62 Brompton Road, London SW3 1BJ

**Tel:** (020) 7581 3598 or (0891) 600 202 (recorded visa information; calls cost 60p per minute).

Fax: (020) 7581 3085. Opening hours: 0900-1330 Monday to Friday (closed UK and Portuguese public holidays).

ICEP/Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office

2-4th Floors, 22-25a Sackville Street, London W1X 2LY

**Tel:** (020) 7494 1441. Fax: (020) 7494 1868. E-mail: [iceplondt@aol.com](mailto:iceplondt@aol.com)

British Embassy

33 Rua de São Bernardo, 1249-082 Lisbon, Portugal

**Tel:** (21) 392 4000 or 392 4160. Fax: (21) 392 4186.

**E-mail:** [britembassy@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:britembassy@mail.telepac.pt)

**Consulates in:** Funchal (Madeira), Oporto, Ribeira Grande (Azores) and Portimão.

Embassy of the Portuguese Republic

2125 Kalorama Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008

**Tel:** (202) 328 8610. Fax: (202) 462 3726. E-mail: [embportwash@mindspring.com](mailto:embportwash@mindspring.com)

**Consulates General in:** Boston, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New Bedford, New York (tel: (212) 246 4580), Philadelphia, Providence, San Francisco and Waterbury.

ICEP/Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office

590 Fifth Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036-4785

**Tel:** (212) 354 4403/4. Fax: (212) 764 6137. E-mail: [tourism@portugal.org](mailto:tourism@portugal.org)

**Web site:** <http://www.portugal.org>

Embassy of the United States of America

Avenida das Forças Armadas, 1600 Lisbon, Portugal

**Tel:** (21) 727 3300. Fax: (21) 726 9109 or 727 2354 (consular section).

**E-mail:** [conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:conslisbon@state.gov)

**Web site:** <http://www.american-embassy.pt>

**Consulate in:** Ponta Delgada (Azores).

Embassy of the Portuguese Republic

645 Island Park Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0B8

**Tel:** (613) 729 0883 or 729 2922. Fax: (613) 729 4236.

**E-mail:** embportugal@embportugal-ottawa.org

**Consulates in:** Halifax, Montréal, Québec, St John's, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

ICEP/Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office

60 Bloor Street W, Suite 1005, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3B8

**Tel:** (416) 921 7376. Fax: (416) 921 1353. E-mail: iceptor@idirect.com

Canadian Embassy

Avenida da Liberdade 200, 1269-121 Lisbon, Portugal

**Tel:** (21) 316 4600. Fax: (21) 316 4695.

**Consulate in:** Faro.

**Country dialling code:** 351.

General

**Area:** 92,345 sq km (35,655 sq miles).

**Population:** 9,979,450 (1998).

**Population Density:** 108.2 per sq km.

**Capital:** Lisbon. Population: 3,319,900 (1997).

**Geography:** Portugal occupies the southwest part of the Iberian Peninsula and shares borders in the north and the east with Spain, while to the south and west lies the Atlantic Ocean. The country is divided into various provinces, including the Atlantic islands of Madeira and the Azores; the latter lying some 1220km (760 miles) due west of Lisbon. The Douro, Tagus and Guadiana rivers flow across the border from Spain. North Portugal is mountainous, the highest part being the Serra da Estrela, a popular area for skiing. South of Lisbon stretch the vast plains of the Alentejo region. A range of mountains divides the Alentejo from the Algarve, which runs along the south coast, and is one of the most popular resort areas with wide sandy beaches and attractive bays.

**Government:** Republic since 1910. Head of State: President Jorge Fernando Branco de Sampaio since 1996. Head of Government: Prime Minister António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres since 1995.

**Language:** Portuguese. English is widely spoken within the business community.

**Religion:** Roman Catholic.

**Time:** GMT (GMT + 1 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in October).

**Electricity:** 220 volts AC, 50Hz. 110 volts in some areas and 220 DC in parts of the south. Continental 2-pin plugs are in use.

**Communications:**

**Telephone:** IDD is available. Country code: 351. Outgoing international code: 00. There are call boxes in most villages and all towns; there are also public telephones in many cafés and bars, from which international calls may be made.

**Mobile telephone:** GSM 900/1800 networks. Operators include Optimus (web site: <http://www.optimus.pt>), Telcel (web site: <http://www.telcel.pt>) and TMN (web site: <http://www.tmn.pt>). Coverage exists across the whole country.

**Fax:** Available at fax bureaux and large hotels in major cities.

**Internet/E-mail:** ISPs include Esoterica, who operate an Internet Access Center, and Telepac, Comnexo and Sonet. Cybercafés exist in all urban areas, and some post offices offer Internet facilities.

**Telegram:** There are telegram facilities at most major hotels. The public office at Praça dos Restauradores, Lisbon is open daily 0900-1800.

**Post:** Post offices (correios) are usually open 0900-1800 Monday to Friday. Central post offices and those at airports are open Saturday. Airmail to European destinations from continental Portugal and the Azores takes three days; from Madeira, up to five days. There are poste restante facilities at post offices throughout the country.

**Press:** The English-language newspapers published in Portugal are: Anglo Portuguese News (Lisbon), and The News (Algarve).

**BBC World Service and Voice of America frequencies:** From time to time these change.

**BBC:**  
MHz12.0959.4106.1953.955

**Voice of America:**  
MHz15.269.7601.1970.792

### 3 PASSPORT

	<i>Passport Required?</i>	<i>Visa Required?</i>	<i>Return Ticket Required?</i>
<b>British</b>	Yes	No	2
<b>Australian</b>	Yes	Yes	2
<b>Canadian</b>	Yes	No	2
<b>USA</b>	Yes	No	2
<b>OtherEU</b>	1	No	2
<b>Japanese</b>	Yes	No	2

**Note:** Portugal is a signatory to the 1995 Schengen Agreement. For further details about passport and visa regulations in the Schengen area see the introductory section How to Use This Guide.

**PASSPORTS:** Passport valid for up to 6 months (depending on nationality) required by all except  
1. EU nationals and nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway and Switzerland holding valid national ID cards.

**Note:** (a) Passport validity depends on nationality; for nationals of UK, the passport must be valid for the duration of the stay in Portugal. (b) 2. It is advisable to have a return ticket, but not obligatory. If a visitor is not in possession of a return ticket, proof of sufficient means of support may be required.

**VISAS:** Required by all except the following for stays of up to 90 days:

(a) nationals referred to in the chart and under passport exemptions above;

(b) nationals of Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Hungary, Israel, Korea (Rep. of), Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Poland, San Marino, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vatican City and Venezuela;

(c) transit passengers continuing their journey by the same or first connecting aircraft, provided holding onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport. However, nationals of certain countries always require a transit visa, even when not leaving the airport transit area; contact the Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy) for details.

**Types of visa and cost:** A uniform type of visa, the Schengen visa, is issued for touristic, private or business visits. There are 3 types of Schengen visa: Short-stay, Transit and Airport Transit. Visas cost between £9.39 and £24.54.

**Note:** A Schengen visa will be issued free of charge to the spouse and children of an EU national, upon presentation of the original marriage certificate and a valid EU passport. For children, original full birth certificates are required.

**Validity:** Transit visas are valid for single or two entries of maximum 5 days, including the day of arrival. Visas cannot be extended; a new application must be made each time.

**Application to:** Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy); see address section. Travellers visiting just one Schengen country should apply to the Consulate of that country; travellers visiting more than one Schengen country should apply to the Consulate of the country chosen as the main destination or the country they will enter first (if they have no main destination).

**Application requirements:** Tourism: (a) Passport or official travel documents accepted by Schengen countries, valid for at least 3 months longer than the validity of the visa, with blank page for attachment of visa sticker. (b) Application form. (c) 1 passport-size photo. (d) Proof of purpose of visit in the form of an official letter of invitation from host or business partner, provisional ticket booking and hotel booking where appropriate. (e) Proof of sufficient funds and medical insurance may also be required. (f) Fee (payable in cash, by postal order). (g) For postal applications, a large self-addressed envelope stamped for registered or recorded delivery. (h) For applicants driving to Portugal, registration document, proof of legal ownership of the vehicle, driving licence and insurance papers. Applicants entering Portugal by land must register with the Police within 3 days of arrival.

**Business:** (a)-(g), and (h) Letter from employer or, if self-employed, from solicitor, accountant, bank manager or local Chamber of Commerce stating purpose and duration of the visit. This should be faxed to the Consulate in London (fax: 020 7581 3085) at least 48 hours before submitting an application. References may also be required.

**Working days required:** From a few days to a few weeks.

**Temporary residence:** Contact the Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy) for further details.

## 4 MONEY

**Currency:** Escudo (Esc). Notes are in denominations of Esc10,000, 5000, 2000, 1000 and 500. The Esc1000 note is known as a conto. Coins are in denominations of Esc200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5.

**Single European currency (Euro):** The Euro is now the official currency of 12 EU member states (including Portugal), although it is currently only used as 'written money' (cheques, bank transactions, credit cards, etc). The first Euro coins and notes will be introduced in January 2002; the Portuguese Escudo will still be in circulation until July 1 2002, when it will be completely replaced by the Euro. 1 Euro = Esc 200.482

**Currency exchange:** Many banks offer differing exchange rates depending on the denominations of Portuguese currency being bought or sold. It is common practice for banks to charge 0.5% commission with a minimum charge of Esc2000 (approximately £9). However, some banks do not charge any commission on transactions of less than Esc5000. Check with banks for details and current rates.

**Credit cards:** MasterCard, American Express and Visa are widely accepted. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services that may be available.

**Travellers cheques:** These are readily exchanged. Eurocheques may be used at many banks in conjunction with the appropriate cheque-guarantee card. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in Pounds Sterling.

Exchange rate indicators

The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the Belgian Franc against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Date May '00 Aug '00 Nov '00 Feb

'01 £1.00=333.35 324.99 338.42 318.74 \$1.00=224.56 216.61 233.77 218.27

The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the Euro against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Date May '00 Aug '00 Nov '00 Feb '01 1 Euro=£0.60 £0.62 £0.59 £0.62 1 Euro=\$0.89 \$0.93 \$0.86 \$0.92

**Currency restrictions:** The import of local or foreign currency in cash or travellers cheques is unlimited. However, there is an obligation to inform the customs authorities if the values exceed Esc2.5 million (approximately US\$13,000,00). The personal export allowance is Esc100,000 cash or (local) travellers cheques, or the equivalent of Esc1,000,000 in foreign currency. This limit may be exceeded on presentation of proof that the same or a larger amount was imported. There is no limit on the movement of credit cards, cheques or travellers cheques issued outside Portugal in the name of the visitor. The export of gold, silver, jewellery and other valuables is limited to a value of Esc30,000 and subject to special conditions. For details, contact the Embassy.

**Banking hours:** Generally, 0830-1500 (certain banks in Lisbon are open until 1800) Monday to Friday. In the Algarve, the bank in the Vilamoura Marina Shopping Centre is open daily from 0900-2100.

## 5 DUTY FREE

Visitors 18 years and older arriving from countries outside the EU may import the following duty-free goods:

200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 litre of spirits over 22% or 2 litres of spirits up to 22%; 2 litres of wine; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette; 500g of coffee or 200g of coffee extract; 100g of tea or 40g of tea extract; further goods up to Esc7500.

**Abolition of duty-free goods within the EU:** On June 30 1999, the sale of duty-free alcohol and tobacco at airports and at sea was abolished in all 15 EU member states. Although there are now no limits imposed on importing tobacco and alcohol products from one EU country to another (with the exceptions of Denmark, Finland and Sweden, where limits are imposed), travellers should note that they may be required to prove at customs that the goods purchased are for personal use only.

## 6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Jan 1 2001 New Year's Day. Feb 27 Mardi Gras (Carnival). Apr 13 Good Friday. Apr 25 Freedom Day. May 1 Labour Day. Jun 10 Portugal Day. Jun 14 Corpus Christi. Aug 15 Assumption. Oct 5 Republic Day. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 1 Restoration of Independence Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day. Jan 1 2002 New Year's Day. Feb 12 Mardi Gras (Carnival). Mar 29 Good Friday. Apr 25 Freedom Day. May 1 Labour Day. May 30 Corpus Christi. Jun 10 Portugal Day. Jun 24\* St John's Day. Aug 15 Assumption. Oct 5 Republic Day. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 1 Restoration of Independence Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day.

**Note:** (a)\*Lisbon only. (b) Holidays falling on a Sunday are not observed on the following Monday.

## 7 HEALTH

	<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
<b>Yellow Fever</b>	No	1
<b>Cholera</b>	No	No
<b>Typhoid and Polio</b>	No	-
<b>Malaria</b>	No	-
<b>Food and Drink</b>	No	-

**1.:** A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age arriving in (or destined for) the Azores or Madeira, if coming from infected areas. However, no certificate is required from transit passengers at Funchal, Porto Santo and Santa Maria.

**Health care:** There are full state-provided health facilities, but private practices are allowed to coexist. There are approximately 28,769 doctors and 38,654 hospital beds. There are reciprocal



health agreements with most European countries. The agreement with the UK allows free in-patient treatment in general wards of official hospitals to those presenting UK passports (other EU nationals must present form E111). Secondary examinations, X-rays and laboratory tests may have to be paid for. A nominal charge will be made for medical treatment at health centres (Centro de Saúde). There may be a charge for prescribed medicines. All dental treatment must be paid for. This agreement is also effective in Madeira and the Azores (although in Madeira a fee must be paid for a GP consultation, which can then be refunded by an appointed bank). Those wishing to take advantage of it should inform the doctor prior to treatment that they wish to be treated under EU social security arrangements. Private treatment must be paid for in full. Medical fees paid whilst in Portugal cannot be reimbursed by the British NHS.

#### Travel - International

**AIR:** Portugal's national airline, TAP Air Portugal (TP), operates direct flights to Lisbon, Porto and Faro from a number of countries, including the UK, USA, Canada, France and Spain. Portugália Airlines (NI) operates flights from Europe. Other airlines flying to Portugal from the UK are British Airways, Go and GB Airways.

**Approximate flight times:** From Lisbon to London is 2 hours 30 minutes and to New York is 8 hours.

**International airports:** Lisbon (LIS) (Portela de Sacavem) (web site: <http://www.ana-aeroportos.pt/eng/aeroportos/lisboa/lisboa.htm>) is 7km (4.5 miles) north of the city (travel time - 35 minutes). Greenline Bus, nos. 44, 45 and 83, runs every 15 minutes from 0530-0100 to the city centre and main railway station. A special 'Airbus' departs to the city centre every 20 minutes. Taxi services to the city are available, with a surcharge after 2200. Airport facilities include 24-hour bureau de change, tourist information (0600-0200), duty-free shops (0700-0130) and car hire (Avis, Eurodollar, Inter-Rent and Hertz).

**Faro (FAO) (web site:** <http://www.ana-aeroportos.pt/aeroportos/faro/faro.htm>) is 4km (3 miles) west of the city (travel time - 30 minutes). Bus nos. 17 and 18 go to the city; taxis are available.

**Oporto (OPO) (Oporto Sá Carneiro) (web site:** <http://www.ana-aeroportos.pt/aeroportos/porto/porto.htm>) is 11km (about 7 miles) from the city. Taxis to the city are available.

**Faro and Oporto airports both have the following airport facilities:** outgoing duty-free shop; bank/bureau de change (open normal banking hours); car hire and a restaurant/bar.

**Departure tax:** None.

**SEA:** The principal ports for international passengers are Lisbon, Leixões (Oporto), Funchal (Madeira) and Portimão (Algarve), served by P&O, Union Castle, Olympia, Linea C, Cunard and Italia. For details, contact shipping lines.

**RAIL:** Travelling from the UK, the quickest way is to travel by Eurostar through the Channel Tunnel to Paris (travel time - 3 hours) and, from there, to Portugal. The 'Sud-Express' runs between Paris and Lisbon, offering first- and second-class seats, sleepers and a restaurant car. For further information and reservations contact Eurostar (tel: (01233) 617 599 (travel agents) or (0990) 186 186 (public; within the UK) or (01233) 617 575 (public; outside the UK only); web site: <http://www.eurostar.com>); or Rail Europe (tel: (08705) 848 848). Travel agents can obtain refunds for unused tickets from Eurostar Trade Refunds, 2nd Floor, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PD. Complaints and comments may be sent to Eurostar Customer Relations, Eurostar House, Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE. General enquiries and information requests must be made by telephone. Rail travellers from the UK not using the Channel Tunnel link need

to cross the channel via some form of sea crossing, usually by ferry or catamaran; for details on sea crossings see also under Sea above. The cost of the crossing is usually included in the price of the rail ticket. There is a daily service between London, Paris and Lisbon, taking approximately 26 hours.

**ROAD:** The only land border is shared with Spain, and there are seven frontier posts in the north and six on the western and southern border. Border posts are usually open 0700-midnight, but close earlier in winter. From the UK, the quickest routes are via the ferry links from Plymouth to Santander and from Portsmouth to Bilbao in northern Spain (which obviates the need to drive through France). Cars can be imported for up to six months. For information on documentation and regulations, see the Travel - Internal section. Travelling from the UK, all road vehicles are carried through the channel tunnel in Le Shuttle trains (journey time - 35 minutes through the tunnel). For further details, see also Travel International in the France section. For information and reservations contact Eurotunnel Customer Services in the UK (tel: (0990) 353 535). For information on required documentation and traffic regulations see Travel - Internal section. Coach: Eurolines operates an extensive network of coach services to many destinations throughout Europe, including Coimbra, Faro, Lisbon, Lagos and Oporto. For information on timetables and fares, call Eurolines in the UK (tel: (08705) 143219; web site: <http://www.eurolines.co.uk>).

Travel - Internal

**AIR:** TAP Air Portugal and Portugália run services between Lisbon, Faro, Madeira, Porto Santo, Oporto and the Azores. Charter flights are also available. The airline for the Azores is SATA (Sociedade Acoriana de Transportes Aereos), which operates its service Air Açores, between the various islands.

**SEA/RIVER:** Transport is available from all coastal ports and along the major rivers. For details, contact local ports.

**RAIL:** Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (Portuguese Railways) provides a rail service to every town. The tourist areas of Cascais and Sintra are connected to Lisbon by frequent express trains.

**Cheap fares:** On 'Blue Days', usually Monday afternoon to Thursday, special rates are available. There are also special fares (with 20-30% reductions) for groups of ten or more (Bilhetes de Grupo), travelling for a minimum distance of 75km/47 miles (single journey) or 150km/94 miles (return journey). Application should be made four days in advance by the group leader. Tourist Tickets (Bilhetes Turisticos) for 7, 14 or 21 days of unlimited travel are also available. The Rail Cheque (Cheque Trem), obtainable in four different values, can be in one name or a company's name and has no time limit; it gives a reduction of 15% and can be used both for purchasing tickets and many other railway services.

An International Youth Ticket (BIJ) entitles those aged 12-26 to a discount (subject to certain conditions) in 25 countries, including Portugal.

Senior citizens are entitled to 50% reduction on production of proof of age. Children under 4 travel free. Children aged 4-11 pay half fare.

Family Card, Inter-Rail Card, Rail Inclusive Tours, Euro Domino and Special Tourist Trips are amongst other offers from the Portuguese Railways (Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses), Calçada **do Duque 20, 1294 Lisbon Codex** (tel: (21) 346 3181; fax: (21) 347 6524; web site: <http://www.cp.pt>). Rail information is also available from ICEP (Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office); see address section.

**ROAD:** Traffic drives on the right. Every town and village can be reached by an adequate system of roads. Petrol stations generally stay open 0700-2000, although some are open 24 hours.

Travel by motorway is subject to a toll according to distance covered and type of vehicle. A small tax may be added to petrol bought with a credit card. Taxi: Charges are according to distance and taxis are all metered. Taxis are usually painted beige (although some taxis painted in the old colours of green and black still exist). In the city they charge a standard meter fare; outside the city limits they charge per kilometre and are entitled to charge for the return fare. There is a surcharge for carrying luggage in the cities. Car hire: Available from main towns and airports, with or without driver. Regulations: Minimum age for driving is 21. Cars may be imported for up to six months. Traffic signs are international. Headlights should be dipped in built-up areas and side lights used when parking in badly-lit areas. Children should not travel in the front seat. Seat belts should be worn. Warning triangles are compulsory. It is forbidden to carry cans of petrol in vehicles. Speed limits are 50kph (30mph) in built-up areas, 90kph (56mph) outside built-up areas and 120kph (70mph) on motorways. Visitors who passed their driving test less than one year previously must display a yellow disc with '90' on it on the rear of their vehicle and must not go faster than 90kph (56mph) (or lower where appropriate). Permitted speeds will vary if trailers are being used. Documentation: International Driving Permits or foreign driving licences are accepted. Third Party insurance is compulsory and a Green Card must be obtained. Under the requirements of the Portuguese Road Code, those wishing to drive a car must possess a valid national/international driving licence, other official documentation with photograph, log book or rental contract and adequate car insurance. Failure to produce, on request to the authorities, any of the above will result in an on-the-spot cash fine. A Carnet de Passage is needed for a van.

**URBAN:** Lisbon has an underground (Metropolitano), which is currently being expanded. Trams also operate in major Portuguese cities. A tram ride in Lisbon also provides a good opportunity to see the city. Cheap fares: In Lisbon, a Tourist Pass is available for either 4- or 7-days travel on trams, buses and the underground. The Lisboa Card (for sightseeing) is valid for 24 or 72 hours and offers unlimited bus, tram and underground travel as well as entry to 26 museums and 50% discounts to other cultural attractions.

**JOURNEY TIMES:** The following chart gives approximate journey times (in hours and minutes) from Lisbon to other major cities/towns in the Portuguese Republic.

AirRoadRail  
Faro0.354.005.00  
Oporto0.455.003.00  
Funchal1.30--

## 8 ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide range of accommodation available all over the country, ranging from luxury hotels, pensions, boarding houses and inns to simple guest-houses, manor houses, campsites and youth hostels. The government-run pousadas offer very good value and are often situated in places of scenic beauty in converted castles, palaces or old inns.

**HOTELS:** Most hotels have a private swimming pool and serve international cuisine as well as some typically Portuguese dishes. During the low season, hotels normally grant substantial reductions. There should be an officially authorised list of prices displayed in every bedroom, and children under eight years of age are entitled to a reduction of 50% on the price of full meals and 50% on the price of an extra bed - if sharing parents' room or apartment. Further information can be obtained from the Associação Hotéis de Portugal, Avenida Duque d'Ávila 75, 1000 Lisbon (tel: (21) 357 0458; fax: (21) 357 0485). Grading: Classification of hotels is according to the international 1- to 5-star system and their prices are officially approved. Apartment hotels are

classified from 2- to 4-star, motels from 2- to 3-star and boarding houses from 1- to 4-star; there are also 4-star albergarias.

**POUSADAS:** The pousadas are a network of inns operated by the Government, and housed in historic buildings, castles, palaces and convents, or sometimes built especially for the purpose. They have often been geographically sited in regions not on the usual tourist itinerary to give people the opportunity to visit the whole country. The architecture and design of the pousadas has been carefully studied in order to give visitors a better knowledge of the cultural traditions of the various regions of the country, with particular attention paid to handicrafts, cooking and wines. A guide to pousadas can be obtained from ENATUR, Pousadas de Portugal, Avenida de Santa Joana-a-Princesa 10, 17499-090 Lisboa (tel; (21) 844 2001, fax; (21) 844 2085).

**PRIVATE HOUSES:** Rooms are available in private houses and on farms all over Portugal. Some of the old manor houses are now open to visitors and provide good opportunities for tourists to make contact with Portuguese customs and people. For further information, contact ICEP or local travel agents.

**SELF-CATERING:** There is self-catering tourist accommodation in deluxe, first- and second-class tourist villages and tourist apartments, particularly on the Algarve. Tour operators can arrange a wide variety of villas for self-catering parties.

**YOUTH HOSTELS:** Youth hostels are located to give young people the opportunity of visiting towns, countryside, mountains and coastal areas. Tourists from 14-40 years of age can obtain accommodation and meals. For further information, contact MOVIOJovem, Avenida Duque d'Avila 137, 1069 Lisbon 017 (tel: (21) 359 6000; fax: (21) 359 6001; e-mail: moviojovem@mail.telepac.pt; web site: <http://www.sej.pt>).

**CAMPING/CARAVANNING:** Portugal provides camping and caravan parks near beaches and in thickly wooded areas. Some have model installations including swimming pools, games fields, supermarkets and restaurants. A guide published by the ICEP and DGT give the names of existing parks and details of their classification, equipment and capacity. For further information, contact Federação Portuguesa de Campismo, Avenida Colonel Eduardo Galhardo 24D, 1170 Lisbon (tel: (21) 812 6890; fax: (21) 812 6918; web site: <http://www.roteiro-campista.pt>).

Porto e Norte de Portugal

**There are seven major tourist regions in Portugal. These are:** Porto e Norte de Portugal, Beiras, Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, Alentejo, the Algarve, Madeira and the Azores.

**Note:** There are separate sections on Madeira and the Azores. For more information, see the individual entries.

Porto e Norte de Portugal is the region occupying the north of Portugal starting at the northern border with Spain and stretching south of Porto as far as the eastern Spanish border. It encompasses the rivers Minho, Lima and Douro together with the Peneda-Gerês National Park. Some places have become 'touristy', but along the coast and in the countryside you can still find quiet areas. The vicinity of Oporto is the home of the famous Port wine. There are also natural spas in this area. The coastal area is well covered by maritime pine forests. There are good beaches in many of the resorts between Espinho and the mouth of the Minho River. Away from the beaches, through the Minho and Douro Valley, there is plenty of interesting local life to see.

**Oporto:** Oporto (Porto) is the second-largest city in Portugal and the major town in the north. Oporto prospered under the Romans and was the birthplace of Prince Henry the Navigator, a

driving force behind the great maritime discoveries of the 15th and 16th centuries. A trading agreement with England in 1703 bought wealth to the town and saw the start of the famous Port wine trade. At the wine lodges in the area, visitors are always welcome.

**Póvoa de Varzim:** Póvoa de Varzim, 28km (17.5 miles) north of Porto, is an old and still important fishing port. In recent years, the town has become an elegant and popular sea resort where traditional industries, such as fisheries and silversmiths, exist alongside the thriving tourist institutions. The presence of a casino has brought a cosmopolitan atmosphere to the town, which also has a popular beach. The seaport, located south of the beach, is characterised by rows of picturesque fishermen's houses; other points of interest are the Fort, the Ethnological Museum, the Mother Church and the City Hall. Rio Mau and Rates, which both have interesting churches, and Monte S. Félix, with its windmills converted into houses and its panoramic views of the coastline, are all within a radius of 15km (9 miles).

**Other towns of interest in the area include:** Espinho, a modern beach resort; Vila do Conde, a quiet fishing resort famous for its traditional crafts such as 'bone lace', chocolate-making and fishing boats; Ofir, a vast expanse of sandy beach fringed by pinewoods; Barcelos, famous for its handicrafts, particularly ceramics; Viana do Castelo, a fortress town noted for Renaissance and Manueline architecture and local products such as ceramics, embroidery, jewellery and filigree; Valença, a 13th-century border town; Monção, home of Alvarinho vinho verde; Braga, which has a 12th-century cathedral; Peneda-Gerês National Park, 170,000 acres of mountain countryside and wildlife; and Guimarães, the first medieval capital. There are spas at Caldelas, Gerez, Vizela and Monção and Pedras Salgadas.

**Resorts in the area include:** Aboinha, Afife, Alfandega da Fé, Alijó, Amarante, Alpedrinha, Arcos de Valdevez, Barcelos, Belmonte, Bom Jesus do Monte, Braga, Bragança, Caniçada, Chaves, Entre-Rios, Espinho, Gerez, Guimarães, Lamego, Macedo de Cavaleiros, Mirandela, Moledo do Minho, Monção, Ofir, Peso da Régua, Pinhão, Ponte de Lima, Póvoa de Varzim, Valença, Viana do Castelo, Vidago, Vila do Conde, Vila Nova de Cerveira, Vila Praia de Ancora and Vila Real.

## Beiras

This region has its fair share of monuments, temples, castles, palaces, monasteries and museums. In addition, it boasts modern tourist resorts with good beaches and pine woods. There are spas at Luso, Curia and San Pedro do Sul and a casino at Figueira da Foz. All this makes the area popular with sightseers the whole year round.

**Coimbra:** Coimbra is Portugal's third-largest city. It is an old university town, famous for its twisting streets, terraced houses and a particular style of Fado, the melancholy but moving music which is distinctive to the Portuguese. Worth visiting are the 12th-century Sé Cathedral, the Art Museum housed in a former Bishop's Palace, the Church and Monastery of the Holy Cross, and the University, one of the oldest in Europe.

**Other towns of interest in the area include:** Aveiro, the 'Venice of Portugal', surrounded by salt flats, beaches and lagoons and dominated by the central canal; Torreira, a typical fishing village between ocean and lagoon, which can be reached by boat from Aveiro; Anadia, the centre of the wine-growing region of Bairrada with visits to wine cellars; Conimbriga, where fine Roman remains dating from the 1st century AD can be seen; Bussaco, famous for its National Park founded by Carmelite friars, and for its 'enchanted forest'; Figueira da Foz, a modern resort with a fine beach and a casino; Pinhal do Rei, a beautiful pine forest.

**Resorts in the area include:** Bussaco, Cacia, Caramulo, Castelo Branco, Celorico da Beira, Covilhã, Coimbra, Curia, Figueira de Foz, Fundão, Gouveia, Guarda, Luso, Manteigas, Monfortinho, Penacova, Penhas da Saúde, São Pedro do Sul, Serra da Estrela, Seia, Vilar Formoso, Viseu and Vouzela.

## Lisboa e Vale do Tejo

**Lisbon:** Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, lies on seven low hills at the estuary of the River Tagus, 10km (6 miles) from the Atlantic Ocean. The city offers a variety of attractions to visitors: long Atlantic beaches, pleasant countryside, castles and a wealth of attractive public places and parks. In the city centre, the medieval Castle of São Jorge stands with its ten towers on the hill where the original colony was situated in Phoenician times. Nearby is Alfama, the old Moorish quarter, which has narrow winding cobbled streets and whitewashed houses, and the Bairro Alto, centre of Fado (the traditional folksongs of Lisbon). The nearby downtown Baixa district was built on a grid formation following the devastating earthquake in 1755. Today, it is one of Lisbon's best areas for shopping and, as almost everywhere in the city, there are plenty of cafés with terraces. Baixa slopes down towards the River Tagus, Lisbon's main waterway, where visitors can take an interesting boat trip along the estuary and across to the picturesque southern shore. The redeveloped riverside area between Santos and Alcantara has numerous bars and converted warehouses. Also worth a visit is the Gulbenkian Foundation, a cultural centre set in its own park, which houses a range of artefacts - from Oriental jewellery to French impressionist paintings. The Oceanarium, which has faithful representations of the world's five oceans, and the Vasco da Gama Tower are two architectural feats that remain from the worldwide Expo 98 exhibition. The 850m (2788ft)-tower offers excellent views of the city and beyond. Following the fire of 1988 (which destroyed large parts of Lisbon), the fin-de-siècle glory of the Chiado quarter (one of the worst affected) is now reemerging, notably in the beautiful pavements, which are adorned with the city's typical mosaics of cream and black basalt. Chiado is also Lisbon's traditional haunt of artists and writers.

Nearby is Belém, from where the ships of Vasco da Gama, Álvares Cabral and other famous explorers were launched; the town has a famous tower and the Hieronymite Monastery. Other points of interest include the 12th-century Lisbon Cathedral, the Coach Museum, the 2.5km-long (1.5-mile) suspension bridge over the Tagus, and the beautiful azulejos, the traditional blue and white tiles which adorn so many of the city's churches. The beach resorts of Estoril and Cascais are a few miles away from the capital. The former is adjusting well to the demands of tourism and is maintaining the high standards of its hotels, which fringe the glorious Tamariz Beach. A mix of cosmopolitan and outdoor entertainment, including a casino, lively nightlife, restaurants, watersports, golf, shopping and riding is on offer. Cascais has changed even more quickly, from a small fishing village with good but empty beaches to a lively resort with bars, nightclubs and cheap, high-quality restaurants.

**Other towns in the area include:** Sintra, a town in the mountains 25km (15miles) from Lisbon, with a summer palace, the Monserrate gardens and twice-monthly antique market; Colares, a small village famous for its red wines; Queluz with the 18th-century pink rococo palace; Mafra, home of the Baroque monastery built in 1717; Ericeira, a small fishing village; Sesimbra, a busy fishing village with good beaches and brightly painted boats, famous for its seafood and an old Moorish castle overlooking the village; Troia, a modern tourist complex on a peninsula parallel to the town of Setubal with good beaches, restaurants, supermarket, swimming pools, nightclubs, golf course and nautical sports centre; Setubal, 39km (24 miles) south of Lisbon; the village of Palmela, with its 12th-century castle and old monastery, which is now a pousada (see the Accommodation section); Fátima, centre for pilgrimages celebrating the appearance of the Virgin Mary there in 1917 (special ceremonies take place here on the 13th of each month between May and October); Batalha, where the Battle Abbey (Mosteiro de Santa Maria) commemorates the 1386 signing of the alliance between England and Portugal (the oldest alliance in Europe); the caves of Santo António e Alvalade, the fishing village of Nazaré; Alcobaça, a quiet town with narrow streets and open-air market; and Obidos, a medieval walled town; and Leiria, a quiet country town situated north of Lisbon and dominated by the 12th-century castle built on a plateau high above the town, where an annual fair takes place at the end of March; Santarém, the capital of a rich agricultural district, Ribatejo, and the venue for the Ribatejo Fair

in June; and Tomar, a charming town on the Nabão River overlooked to the west by the great convent castle of the knights templar. There are spas at Caldas da Rainha, Vimeiro and Cucos.

**Resorts in the area include:** Lisbon, Caparica, Palmela, Azeitão, Arrábida, Setubal, Sesimbra, Carcavelos, Estoril, Cascais, Guincho, Colares, Sintra, São Pedro de Sintra, Queluz, Ericeira, Praia das Maças, Praia Grande and Parede.

### Alentejo

Throughout the area there are many typical Portuguese villages set in rich arable landscape. The Alentejo is the country's granary, and also the source of much of its cork. Attractions include shooting and reservoir fishing, a wealth of local folklore which finds expression in the countless local festivals, and easy access to the Costa Alentejana with the quiet beaches of Alentejo. The area is known for its local cuisine, particularly seafood, and its handicrafts.

**Resorts in the area include:** Alcácer do Sal, Alter do Chão, Beja, Campo Maior, Castelo de Vide, Elvas, Estremoz, Evora, Ferreira do Alentejo, Marvão, Minde, Monsaraz, Monte das Flores, Montemor-o-Novo, Moura Ponte do Sor, Portalegre, Santa Clara-a-Velha, Serpa, Sines, Vila Nova de Milfontes and Troia.

### The Algarve

The Algarve is located in the far south of Portugal, bordered by the Atlantic on two sides, by the mountains in the north and Spain in the east. It stretches from the Spanish border westwards to Cabo de São Vicente (Cape St Vincent). The area is well geared to provide for tourists and it has become a favourite package destination with good beaches and well-equipped sports facilities.

**Faro:** Faro, the capital of the Algarve, was destroyed by an earthquake in 1755, and only part of the old town remains. Loulé is a market town famous for crafts such as leather and copper. Albufeira is a busy market town with a Moorish atmosphere. Armação de Pêra is a fishing village with one of the biggest beaches on the Algarve. Silves is an old walled city with a 12th-century cathedral. Carvoeiro is an old fishing village with a picturesque harbour. Portimão is one of the largest towns and fishing ports in the Algarve, known for its furniture and wickerwork. Monchique is set high in the mountains and has a spa. Lagos has historical shipyards. Sagres is the centre of the lobster fishing industry, with a 17th-century fortress. Cape St Vincent is the most southwesterly point of mainland Europe.

**Resorts in the area include:** Albufeira, Armação de Pêra, Lagos, Portimão, Praia da Rocha, Silves, Tavira, Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Olhão, Quarteira, Carvoeiro, Loulé, Sagres, Vilamoura, Monte Gordo, S. Brás de Alportel, Aljezur and Monchique.

## 9 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

**Wine tasting:** Wine tasting: Portugal's most renowned wines originate in the lush vineyards of the north (also sometimes called the Minho region). Oporto is famous for port wine, which became a major trade following a 1703 agreement with the United Kingdom, and there are many wine lodges (still bearing English names like Croft or Graham) where visitors are welcome. The vinho verde grapes are largely grown in Minho in the north of the country. (For information on Madeira wine, see the Madeira section).

**Cycling:** Cycling: Portugal offers some excellent cycling routes, notably in the Minho region in the north, where the most interesting villages and towns are sometimes not accessible by car.

**Music and folklore:** Music and folklore: The melancholic fado, said to have originated from 16th century sailors' songs, is Portugal's best-known musical form. One of the best places to experience it is Lisbon, with many fado clubs located in the Bairro Alto and Alfama neighbourhoods. One of the country's main traditional crafts is the making of decorative tiles known as azulejos. Visitors wishing to learn the craft should enquire locally. Traditional folk dancing is still practised in rural areas and there are numerous colourful festivals (see Special Events in the Social Profile section).

**Watersports:** Watersports: Portugal's coastline offers excellent beach holidays with all the usual activities - swimming, snorkelling, water-skiing, sailing or windsurfing - widely available. For information on diving, which is practised in many areas along the coast, contact the Portuguese Federation for Underwater Activities (FPAS), Rua Frei Manuel Cardoso 39, 1700 Lisbon (tel: (21) 846 0174; fax: (21) 840 6153; e-mail: fpas@mail.telepac.pt; web site: <http://www.scubaportugal.com/FPAS.html>). The Algarve has a perpetually mild climate, although the tides can be strong in the winter, and big-game fishing is popular here. The west coast is best for surfing; the Costa da Prata in the north has big Atlantic breakers and is still fairly undeveloped, with many deserted beaches. The wetlands around the towns of Rio and Aveiro (crossed by numerous canals) offer some interesting boat trips in traditional Portuguese moliceiros (gondola-like sailing barges). Another good boating destination is the Douro Valley, stretching from Oporto to the Spanish border, where the River Douro is navigable. Canoeing is available in the Peneda-Gerês National Park (see below).

**Golf:** Golf: Portugal is a well-known golfing destination and the south in particular has many championship golf courses (there are 19 in the Algarve alone). The climate allows playing all year round. Some of the best-known 18-hole courses include Estoril (one of the oldest, close to Lisbon, hosting many major competitions); Quinta de Marinha (on the Estoril coast near Lisbon, with good views of the Sintra mountain range); Golden Eagle (near Rio Maior, boasting a typically American design, open to non-members); Ponte de Lima (a typical mountain course in the northern Minho region, close to vineyards, fruit gardens and mountains); Estela (on the coast near Póvoa de Varzim); Tróia (in Alentejo, southern Portugal, reputedly the country's most difficult course); and the Royal Golf Course (in the Algarve, said to be one of the world's most famous and most photographed courses).

**Hiking:** Hiking: The Peneda-Gerês National Park, a wilderness park in the far north near the Spanish border, has many short-distance trails with places to swim along the way. Horseriding is also available in the park as well as in many resorts elsewhere. The dense Foia forest in the Algarve highlands offers good scenic walks.

## 10 SOCIAL PROFILE

**Food & Drink:** Seafood is popular, especially in Lisbon, but can be expensive. Soup is a main dish. Typical Portuguese dishes include sopa de marisco (shellfish soup cooked and served with wine), caldo verde (green soup made with finely shredded green kale leaves in broth) and bacalhau (dried cod, cooked in over 100 different ways). Caldeirada is a fish stew with as many as nine kinds of fish, cooked with onions and tomatoes. Also typical is carne de porco á Alentejana, in which bits of fried pork are covered with a sauce of clams stewed with tomato and onions. Puddings include arroz doce (rice pudding), Madeira pudding and nuvens (egg custard). Portugal's sweet pastries (available in most cafés) are also worth a try. Table service is normal. Drink: Portuguese table wines are good value. The most popular regional names are Dão for red wines and Bucelas and Colares for white wines. Sparkling rosé wines are mostly produced for



export. Mateus Rosé is a famous lightweight rosé. Portuguese brandies are also good; the best are produced around Oporto, where Port wines come from. There are no licensing hours.

**Nightlife:** The large towns offer every kind of entertainment. There are many nightclubs, theatres, cinemas, stage shows, folk dancing and music performances. The traditional Fado can be heard in many restaurants and performances begin at about 2200. The theatre season is from October to May. Gambling is authorised and Estoril, Figueira da Foz, Espinho, Alvor, Vilamoura and Monte Gordo have casinos. The elegant Estoril Casino is the most renowned.

**Shopping:** Items include leather goods, copper, ceramics, handcrafted silver and gold, embroidery and tapestry, woodcarving, cork products, porcelain and china, crystal and glassware. Shopping hours: Generally 0900-1300 and 1500-1900 Monday to Friday; 0900-1300 Saturday (December also 1500-1900). Shopping centres are usually open 1000-midnight Monday to Sunday.

**Special Events:** June is one of the best months for festivals in Portugal, and the festivals of St Anthony, St John and St Peter, held in Lisbon, are central events. Also of note are the Gulbenkian Festival of Music in winter, the Santiago Fair in Setubal, the Wine Harvest Festival in Palmela in September, the Algarve Song and Dance Festival in September and the world-famous Our Lady of Fatima pilgrimages during May and October. There are many other festivals - for a complete list, contact ICEP (Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office). Below is a selection of events celebrated in 2001 in Portugal:

Jan 17-21 2001 Lisbon Travel Market, Lisbon. Jan 27-30 Portuguese Fashion Fair, Lisbon. Feb Carnival, Lisbon, Torres Vedras, Sesimbra and Nazaré. Mar Lisbon Marathon, Lisbon. Mar 9-11 Indoor Athletics World Championship, Lisbon. Apr Estoril Tennis Open. Apr 1-5 International Food Fair, Lisbon. May Gigantones e Circaçudos (circus parade), Oporto; International Theatre Festival for Childhood and Youth, Oporto. May-Jul Algarve International Music Festival. Jun Festival of Lisbon (three weeks of street parties, music and dance). Jul-Aug International Jazz Festival, Loulé. Jul-Sep Summer Nights 2001 (open-air concerts featuring international musicians), Oporto. Aug Our Lady of Agony Festivities, Viana do Castelo; Nights of Ballet in Seteais (open-air ballet performances), Sintra. Sep National Folklore Festival, Algarve; National Gastronomy and Handicraft Festival, Santarem; Festa das Vindimias (wine harvest celebrations), Palmela; Sailing Rally, Algarve. Oct Amadora Comic Strip Festival. Nov International Cartoon Film Festival, Espinho; Lisbon Wine Festival. Dec Crafts Fair, Oporto.

**Note:** (a) Together with Rotterdam, the city of Oporto has been declared a European City of Culture 2001 and a wide range of events are taking place in the city throughout the year. For further information, contact Porto 2001, Edifício Peninsula, Praça do Bom Sucesso 127-5, sala 505, 4150-146 Oporto (tel: (122) 605 9400; fax: (122) 605 9450; e-mail: mail@porto2001.pt; web site: <http://www.porto2001.pt>). (b) Portugal will host the European Football Championships in 2004.

**Social Conventions:** The Portuguese way of life is leisurely, and old-fashioned politeness is essential. Warm, Latin hospitality is the norm. The country has a deeply individual national character, although each province has its own traditions and folklore. Casual wear is widely acceptable, although beachwear should not be worn in towns. In restaurants it is usual to smoke only at the end of the meal. Smoking is prohibited in cinemas, theatres and on buses. Tipping: Generally 10-15%. Taxi drivers are tipped 10%.

## 11 BUSINESS PROFILE

**Economy:** Portugal has a traditionally agrarian economy that has industrialised extensively in recent years. Agriculture still employs over 25% of the workforce, producing wheat, maize, tomatoes, potatoes and grapes. Production has undergone a relative decline so that Portugal now imports a sizeable proportion of its foodstuffs after having long been self-sufficient. The manufacturing sector is dominated by the textile and footwear industries and automobiles which now account for 15% of total exports. Other significant products are paper, cork and other wood products, electrical appliances, chemicals and ceramics. Portugal's economy has grown consistently since joining the European Community in 1986. Both foreign and internal investment have been high and the country's infrastructure has been extensively modernised. Many former state-owned industries have been sold off under a privatisation programme which began in 1989. Problems remain: the large agricultural sector remains inefficient, and the disparity between the relatively prosperous north and the poorer south continues. The government has also taken measures to tackle Portugal's rising unemployment. Portugal's macro-economic performance has been sufficient to guarantee the country's entry into the European Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999. Although Britain has historically been Portugal's main trading partner, the growth of Anglo-Portuguese trade has failed to keep pace with that of Portugal's other trading partners, particularly Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

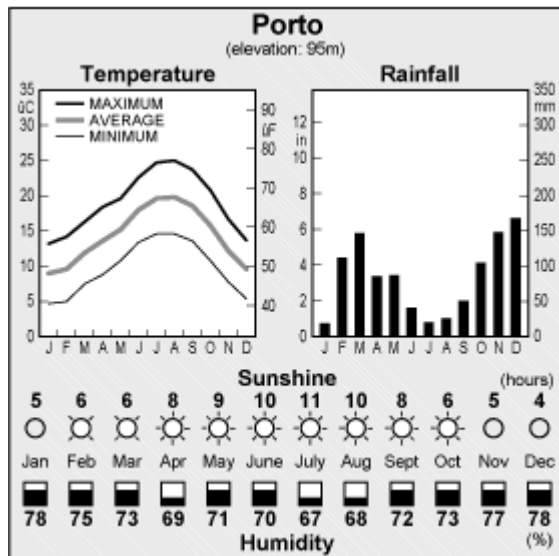
**Business:** Business people are expected to dress smartly and formal attire is expected in some dining rooms and for important social functions. English is widely spoken in business circles, although when visiting a small family business it is best to check in advance. Visiting cards are generally only exchanged by more senior members of a company. July and August are best avoided. Office hours: 0900-1300 and 1500-1900 Monday to Friday.

**Commercial Information:** The following organisations can offer advice: Associação Comercial de Lisboa, Câmara de Comércio e Indústria Portuguesa, Rua das Portas de Santo Antão 89, 1150 226-Lisbon (tel: (21) 322 4050; fax: (21) 322 4051; web site: <http://www.port-chambers.com>); or Confederação do Comércio e Serviços de Portugal (CCP), Avenida Dom Vasco de Gama 29, 1049 032-Lisbon (tel: (21) 303 1380; fax: (21) 303 1400; e-mail: [ccp@ccp.pt](mailto:ccp@ccp.pt); web site: <http://www.ccp.pt>).

**Conferences/Conventions:** Lisbon is the main centre for conventions, with venues that can seat up to 1500 people. The Lisbon Convention Centre was founded in 1987, and a major Congress centre, fully integrated with the facilities offered by the Lisbon International Fair, opened in 1989. The fair is a department of the Portuguese Industrial Association, which promotes trade fairs, exhibitions and meetings. After the EXPO '98 in Lisbon, the North International Area became the new Lisbon Exhibition Centre, with a area of 80,000 sqm (743,200 sq ft), also run by the Portuguese Industrial Association. The Lisbon International Fair will now be the major congress centre in Lisbon, with a capacity for events of up to 3000 delegates. The Lisbon Convention Bureau is a non-profit making association of companies providing support services to conference organisers. Its services directory includes details of the Congress Centre and hotels with conference facilities. For **information, contact the Lisbon Convention Bureau, Apartado 3326, 1300 Lisbon (tel: (21) 361 0350; fax: (21) 361 0359)**. Lisbon opened the Belem Cultural Centre in 1992 to coincide with Portugal's EU Presidency; it features high-quality technical equipment and facilities for meetings of up to 1400 delegates. For further information, contact the Belem Cultural Centre, Praça do Império, 1400 Lisbon (tel: (21) 361 2400; fax: (21) 361 2500; web site: <http://www.fdscceb.pt>). Additionally, the former site of the EXPO '98 'Utopia Pavillion' has been converted into the multi-purpose Atlantic Pavillion, which can accommodate up to 16,500 seated spectators. The city of Oporto also has two major international exhibition and congress centres.

The Oporto International Exhibition Centre (Exponor) has a total area of 29,500 sqm (274,000 sqft) with a congress centre that has a capacity for 1000 delegates; the International Congress and Exhibition Centre (Europarque) has a large and flexible exhibition hall that can host receptions for up to 12,000 delegates on a floor space of 7,200 sqm (66,890 sqft). For further information, contact the Porto Convention Bureau, Av Inferior a Ponte D. Luis 1, 51-3 4050 Porto (tel: (22) 332 6751; fax: (22) 332 6752; e-mail: portconv@mail.telepac.pt; web site: <http://www.porto-convention-bureau.pt>).

## 12 CLIMATE



The northwest has mild winters with high levels of rainfall and fairly short summers. The northeast has longer winters and hot summers. In the south, summers (March to October) are warm with very little rain except in early spring and autumn. High temperatures are moderated by a permanent breeze in Estoril (July to August).

**Required clothing:** Light- to medium-weights and rainwear are advised.

## 13 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

**History:** The part of Iberia which is now Portugal was occupied by a people known as the Lusitanos who are thought to be direct ancestors of the Portuguese people. The region was invaded and occupied by the Romans and later the Moors; it remained under the latter's control until the 11th century, when Ferdinand, ruler of the Kingdom of Leon and Castilla (in what is now Spain) conquered much of the territory. Over the next 200 years, the remaining Moors were driven out and the boundaries of Portugal fixed; and it was during this period (in 1143) that Portugal first became recognised as an independent entity under the rule of King Afonso Henriques. The Castilians were themselves expelled in 1385 after defeat at the hands of João of Aviz (who became King João I) at the Battle of Aljubarotta. From this point, the Portuguese went on to build a colonial empire in Africa, Latin America, India and the Far East. One of the most famous figures during this period was Prince Henry the Navigator, amongst whose acquisitions were the Azores and Madeira. One of the best-known visitors to Madeira was Christopher

Columbus, who married a daughter of one of the island's governors and lived for some time on Porto Santo. The island survived a brief invasion by a French pirate in 1566, but in 1580, along with the rest of Portugal, came under Spanish domination. This arose from the recurring friction between the two kingdoms, particularly after the union of Aragon and Castilla in the late 15th century. In the 16th century, with the Portuguese regime weakened by a struggle for the succession to the throne and the legacy of a disastrous 'crusade' against the Moors, Philip II of Spain (who had a claim to the Portuguese crown) invaded. Spanish rule lasted just 60 years until 1640, when the Portuguese launched a successful uprising and seceded from Spain. However, by the time they recovered their independence, the Portuguese had lost the bulk of their empire, including most of the valuable East Indies territories which had been occupied by the Dutch. Portugal ceased to be a major player in the European colonial scramble thereafter. The Braganza dynasty, which took power after the defeat of the Spanish, lasted until the mid-19th century, presiding over a weak economy and a largely feudal society. One of the princesses of the royal house, Catherine, married Charles II of England, confirming the friendly relations between the two countries which date back to the 14th century. This brought many advantages to English merchants in Portugal, and also on the island of Madeira where the treaty helped the rapid development of the trade in the island's wine which became popular in England. Portuguese political development lagged behind that of many European states during this period and it remained comparatively untouched by the Enlightenment until the emergence in the late 18th century of the Marquis de Pombal, who was both dictatorial yet enlightened (by the standards of the time) on matters of social reform. He did much to break the power of the landed aristocracy over the country. Occasional conflicts with the Spanish and French - sometimes in alliance - threatened the country's autonomy, but the Portuguese always managed to preserve their independence, often with the support of the British. The monarchy was finally overthrown in 1910 by republican forces, who particularly resented the strong influence of the Catholic church on the regime. Portugal supported the Allied Powers during World War I, but contributed little due to the presence of a strong pro-German element in the armed forces, which made several coup attempts. Finally, a right-wing dictatorship took power in 1926. Though military in composition, the key figure in the new regime was finance minister Antonio de Oliveira Salazar. Having addressed Portugal's chaotic financial situation, Salazar became President in 1932. Salazar was influenced by the populist fascism of Benito Mussolini in Italy and founded a party, the National Union, to prepare the way for an 'Estado Novo'. Despite its Government's sympathies, Portugal, like Spain, stayed neutral during World War II. Salazar remained in power until 1968 without effecting any of the post-war reforms which had been forced upon or embraced by other European countries: the economy remained largely agricultural and under-industrialised, while the Portuguese colonies were subject to regimes more consistent with the conditions of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Salazar's eventual successor, Marcello Caetano, eased the restrictions on domestic political activity, but otherwise altered little. His downfall six years later was connected with the colonial policies inherited from his predecessor: specifically that Portugal's overseas possessions were an 'inalienable' part of the country. The strain of fighting several different nationalist movements simultaneously (see, for example, separate entries on Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Indonesia) strained both army morale and the Government's finances. On April 25, 1974 (a date of great significance in Portugal), a group of radical army officers deposed Caetano in a bloodless coup. The African colonies were immediately abandoned: indeed, they were left with such haste that internal crises were almost inevitable. Portugal was governed for two years by a leftist military junta led by members of the Movimento das Forças Armadas, the instigators of the revolution, while civilian politicians re-emerged and crystallised around the Socialist and Communist Parties and the right-wing Partido Popular Democratico. Under the constitution adopted in 1976, Portugal was nominally committed to a path of socialist development, but the country has since followed a standard Western European model of political pluralism. Portugal has been a member of NATO since its inception in 1949 and a member of the EC, now the EU, since 1986. The Government of Anibal Cavaco Silva which took office in 1987 concentrated on bridging the economic gap between Portugal and its richer fellow Community

members. With average annual growth of around 5% in the last four years, the Government was broadly successful on the economic front. This as much as anything else won Cavaco Silva's centre-right Partido Social Democrata (PSD, Social Democrats) a further endorsement from the electorate in October 1991. Since the election, the Government has been pursuing a controversial austerity programme which aims to dispose of almost the entire state sector as part of a drive to increase competitiveness and reduce structural inefficiency. The unpopularity of this programme became apparent at the most recent general election held in October 1995 at which the Socialists were returned as the largest single party with sufficient parliamentary seats to form a minority government. The new Prime Minister was Antonio Guterres, who reformed his party since taking it over in 1991 in much the same direction as the British Labour Party leader, Tony Blair. The centre-right alliance of the People's Party and Democratic Social Centre went into opposition. The Socialists relied on occasional support from the Communist Party. Guterres' Socialists were the undoubted victors at the most recent general election held in October 1999, but a strong showing by the Communists and the environmentalist Os Verdes party deprived them of an overall majority. Portugal held the European Community presidency in 1992, and again in 1999, and is a relatively contented participant in the post-Maastricht integration process, including the introduction of European Monetary Union at the beginning of 1999. EU reforms were a principal motivation for the constitutional changes effected by the government in 1997, of which the most important was a measure allowing for referendums on important matters of national interest. Outside Europe, the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, contributed substantially to the various political settlements in Angola and, co-operating closely with Italian diplomats, Mozambique. Relations with the government of Indonesia have deteriorated because of the latter's behaviour in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, where widespread human rights violations have been condemned by Lisbon. There has been some recent improvement, however, following the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from the territory (see Indonesia section). The future of Macau, which reverted to Chinese possession in December 1999, was settled far more amicably between Beijing and Lisbon than the parallel negotiations between the British and Chinese governments over the future of Hong Kong.

**Government:** Since 1982, when the Military Council of the Revolution was abolished, Portugal has been formally governed by a directly elected President, who is head of state and appoints a Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. Legislation is handled by the unicameral 230-member Assembly which, like the President, is elected for a 5-year term. Following constitutional amendments promulgated in 1997 (see above), the number of deputies will probably be reduced further to between 180 and 200. The Azores and Madeira integral parts of the Portuguese republic, but since 1976 have had autonomous governments. Macau, now a Special Administrative Region of China, is governed by special statute (see Macau section).

## 14 OVERVIEW

**Country Overview:** Portugal is a country of astonishing beauty and diversity, not to mention clear blue skies and friendly, courteous people. Pick any destination and the view from your window might be a rugged stretch of windswept coastline (Cabo do São Vicente, Castelejo, Cabo Espichel), a pristine beach where fishermen mend their nets beside brightly painted sardine boats (Albufeira, Bordeira, Praia do Camilo) or a cobbled street overlooked by dazzling whitewashed houses with wooden balconies and red-tiled roofs.

Portugal is a land of infinite options. You can mingle with the crowds in one of the more sophisticated beach resorts or wander through the medieval quarters of historic cities like Lisbon, Porto, Braga or Coimbra. To explore the more remote beauty spots (car hire is relatively cheap, driving a delight) stay overnight in a romantic pousada - a converted farm, monastery or manor

house enjoying a wonderful setting - an amazing bargain. If it's an activity holiday you're looking for, Portugal is one of Europe's premier golfing destinations while the tennis schools are second-to-none. You could try your hand at big game fishing or horse riding, learn how to windsurf or water ski. Other unmissable experiences include Fado (Portugal's answer to Soul music), country fairs where centuries old folk traditions are lovingly reenacted, Port wine tastings and mouthwatering fish suppers. Portugal is a country ripe for discovery.

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