



# Living in Portugal

## CLIMATE

In terms of climate, our winters are mild and summers are hot and dry. Did you know that the number of hours of sunshine per year reaches values as high as 3300 in the south of the country and 1600 in the north, some of the highest in Europe?



## THE PORTUGUESE

The Portuguese are gracious and friendly, welcoming all visitors regardless of where they come from. And, in fact, visitors do come here from all over the world, as the country is located on the western coast of Europe and, as such, is a point of entrance into the Schengen zone. A large part of the population speaks foreign languages, mainly English.

## GEOGRAPHY

Portugal has an excellent geographical location. At the meeting point between three continents - Europe, Africa and America -, it has always been central to the most important international routes. Here you can find international airports all over the country - Lisbon, Faro and Porto have regular connections to major cities in the world.

Did you know that Lisbon is just two and a half hours away from Paris and London by plane? If you want to discover the beauties of Portugal, the country has a modern road network waiting to be explored: it only takes two hours to get from Lisbon to Porto or Faro, the major cities in the north and south of the country. Madrid is just six hours away.

# THE COUNTRY

With almost nine centuries of well-defined geographical borders, a democratic parliamentary regime with political stability prevails in Portugal.

Portugal has been a member of the European Union for 26 years and forms part of the European Monetary System, using the European single currency. According to the World Bank, Portugal is the 43rd largest economy in the world, with one of the highest GDP growth rates over the last 40 years among the OECD countries.

Portugal is the 17th most peaceful country in the world out of a sample of 153 countries (Global Peace Index 2011) and holds 32nd place out of 182 countries in Transparency International (Corruption Perception Index 2011). Best Quality of Life in 2010, the European Consumers Choice Awards rated Lisbon (capital of the country) as the "Best Destination 2010" and in 2011 it was voted one of the 42 cities in the world with the best quality of life, by the Worldwide Quality of Living Survey 2011.

## COST OF LIVING

Most foreigners consider the cost of living to be low. According to UBS (Prices and Earnings 2010), the price indices are attractive: Food: 68.2 (index: New York = 100); Clothing: 53.3 (index: New York = 100); Services: 67.9 (index: New York = 100); Metro ticket: GBP 1.40 (journey of approximately 10 km); Bus ticket: GBP 1.80 (journey of approximately 10 km); Restaurant: GBP 40 (3 course meal in a good quality restaurant).

### Markets

Milk (regular), (1 litre)	0.61 €
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	1.09 €
Rice (white), (1kg)	0.83 €
Eggs (12)	1.78 €
Local Cheese (1kg)	7.57 €
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	5.58 €
Apples (1kg)	1.22 €
Oranges (1kg)	0.84 €
Tomato (1kg)	1.22 €
Potato (1kg)	0.73 €
Lettuce (1 head)	0.75 €
Water (1.5 litre bottle)	0.51 €

### Markets

One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	1.40 €
Monthly Pass (Regular Price)	36.00 €
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	3.25 €
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	0.52 €
Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	15.00 €
Gasoline (1 litre)	1.49 €

### Markets

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	7.00 €
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	30.00 €
McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Meal)	5.50 €
Cappuccino (regular)	1.29 €
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	1.18 €
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.94 €