



Caring for  
your world.

Your  
relocation  
guide to  
Portugal



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Memb No: A091



TELEPHONE:	Country code (351) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC 50Hz
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	No special precautions required
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Feb 28, (Shrove Tuesday), Apr 14-16, (Easter), May 1, Jun 10, 15 (Corpus Christi), Aug 15, Oct 5, Nov 1 Dec 1, 8, 24, 25
OFFICE HOURS:	0900 – 1230 & 1400 – 1900 Mon - Fri May vary by region
BANK HOURS:	0800 – 1500 Mon - Fri
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	112 – Fire / Police / Ambulance
BRITISH EMBASSY:	Rua de São Bernardo 33 P-1249-082 Lisboa Tel: (351) 21 392 4000 Fax: (351) 21 392 4021 Web: <a href="http://ukinportugal.fco.gov.uk">http://ukinportugal.fco.gov.uk</a>
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Portuguese National Tourist Office Tel: 0845 355 1212 Email: <a href="mailto:info@visitportugal.com">info@visitportugal.com</a> <a href="http://www.visitportugal.com">www.visitportugal.com</a>
PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN LONDON:	11 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PP Tel: 020 7291 3770 Fax: 020 7291 3799 Web: <a href="http://www.secomunidades.pt/">www.secomunidades.pt/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:mail@cglon.dgaccp.pt">mail@cglon.dgaccp.pt</a>

## **Customs**

**Portugal is part of the EU and therefore no official documents are required for personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies.**

### **Household Goods – Private Persons coming from Non EEC Countries only**

Documents required:

- Original passport of owner (in force and stating place of residence abroad)
- ‘Certificate de Bagagem’ issued by Portuguese Consulate at origin together with a comprehensive inventory list in Portuguese, stating that all items are used and have been in your possession for more than 12 months (Do not show values)
- Certificate stating that Owner has lived abroad for more than one year and is cancelling their residence at origin
- Declarations to be supplied by your destination agent at destination and signed at your agents office
- Domicile Certificate (Atestado de Residencia) to be obtained by yourself and issued by the Junta de Freguesia in which client’s residence in Portugal is situated and stating they have been residing there for less than one year. Exact date of client’s arrival in Portugal should be mentioned
- Date of your arrival in Portugal should be mentioned
- Portuguese Fiscal Number referring residence in Portugal
- Photocopy of work contract if applicable
- Proof of application for residence permit no matter what your nationality (Portuguese are the only exemption)

## **IMPORTATION CUSTOMS CLEARANCE CHARGES**

Although normal removal goods are duty free, there is always customs broker’s fees to be considered which are based on ad-valorem. Port handling charges and warehouse fees are included in these charges, which are rather expensive and quotations should be requested.

In case all required documents are not available, duties and taxes are payable on the declared value.

Normally, household removals should be imported in 1 single shipment, from 1 place of origin. In special circumstances and on submission of proof and explanation to the General Customs Board, prior to the removal, it is possible to obtain the necessary permission to import household goods in 2 or more shipments. A full inventory must be produced with the first consignment showing clearly which goods are being imported in the first consignment and which belong to the second shipment. All documents must be with your destination agent before the goods arrive. Otherwise, it will be impossible to organise customs clearance in time.

‘Certificado’ must state that you have lived at the same address for more than 12 consecutive months.

### **Household Goods for Secondary Residence, coming from Non EEC Countries**

Documents Required:

- “Certificado de Bagagem” issued by Portuguese Consulate at origin together with an inventory list in Portuguese ( with values ) where client must state that all items have been in his possession for more then 12 months and that he will keep his residence in the foreign country
- Declarations to be supplied by the agent at destination and signed at agent’s office
- Photocopy of Predial Register of new house or rental contract duly legalised by a notary public
- Photocopy of air ticket, or declaration (available from agent) where date of arrival and other details are shown

Duty free entry.

As per “ Household goods “ above, plus 23% VAT on the value shown in the “Certificado de Bagagem”.

If client is cancelling a second residence at origin, the list must also state that items have been in his possession for more than 12 months.

### **Diplomatic Removals**

Diplomats, other consular officials, diplomatic and international mission accredited in Portugal:

- Diplomatic franchise must be obtained by Embassy through the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a minimum of 15 days before shipment arrives.

Duty free entry.

Owner must be in Portugal at least one week prior to removal arrival for diplomatic or non-diplomatic shipments.

Without the above documents, customs clearance cannot be performed and the shipment will have to be kept under customs supervision, paying heavy storage charges.

Diplomatic franchise must be obtained from local Embassy.

In order to allow the issue of this document, details of shipment and list must be given in advance in order to give time to apply for it.

Diplomatic moves from EEC countries require only an inventory list of goods.

### **Antiques – Part of Removal**

No documents required as long as included in a removal.

Duty free entry.

It is convenient to declare them to customs at the time of entry into Portugal in order to avoid problems at the time of eventual exportation.

## Antiques – Imported Separately

Documents required:

- Import licence and invoice

Subject to payment of duties.

Antiques allowed to ship if imported alone only commercial companies can apply for import licences.

## Fine Arts / Exhibition Goods

Documents required:

- Document issued by the Gallery / Museum that owns the goods stating that the article is being shipped to ... to show on a given exhibition, to be held at ... for a “x” period of time
- Museum / Gallery that is receiving works must apply for a special temporary import licence to Customs Main Office, for a maximum period of 6 months, stating the reason for the importation
- Commercial invoice
- EUR 1 certificate
- Title of ownership
- Identification / catalogue or ATA carnet

If imported under ATA Carnet, no duties or taxes or deposits are necessary.

If there is no ATA Carnet available, Customs Duties must be guaranteed by a deposit or bank guarantee.

Import duties depend on nature of goods. All these regulations may be changed without notice.

## Inheritance

Documents required:

- Luggage Certificate (Certificado de bagagem) issued by nearest Portuguese Consulate, stating that the items of the attached list belong to Mr / Mrs... and were inherited by Mr / Mrs....
- Testament and respective authenticated translation into Portuguese
- Declaration confirming death of testator
- Passport of consignee

Duty free entry.

Consignee must be in Portugal at the time of goods arrival.

## Motorcars and Motorcycles

Document required:

- Full documentation of vehicle such as Registration Certificate and Title of Property
- International driving licence

- Insurance document

- Declaration from the Portuguese Embassy stating that client lived for more than 12 months abroad

Duty free entry for temporary import period of six months, during which definitive importation of the car must be affected.

Costs of duties and taxes depend on the value of the motorcar in Portugal.

If no definitive importation is performed, the motor car must leave the country.

Vehicle must belong to owner six months prior to arrival of owner in Portugal.

Details of vehicle such as make and registration number must be supplied in advance.

Obtainment of Portuguese plate number and payment of duties and taxes to be dealt with by owner directly with a customs broker or with the A.C.P. (Automovel Clube de Portugal ([www.acp.pt](http://www.acp.pt)))

Obtaining a plate can cost over 40% of the value of the car.

## Caravans

Documents required:

- Invoice showing lowest possible price
- Registration Certificate
- Title of Property

Subject to payment of duties as for motorcars.

Vehicle must belong to owner six months prior to arrival of owner in Portugal.

Details of vehicle such as make and registration number must be supplied in advance.

Obtainment of Portuguese plate number and payment of duties and taxes to be dealt with by owner directly with a customs broker or with the A.C.P. (Automovel Clube de Portugal ([www.acp.pt](http://www.acp.pt)))

Obtaining a plate can cost over 40% of the value of the car.

## Boats – Definitive Import

Documents required:

- Registration Certificate
- Import licence

Subject to payment of duties.

Definitive importation is very difficult. Usually not allowed unless very special circumstances occur.

## Boats – Temporary Import

Documents required:

- Registration Certificate
- When boats are imported for exhibition or contest / race purposes, a special permission from Customs Main office is necessary, stating that the boat is temporarily imported for a period of ..... to show in a given exhibition or race

Duty free entry.

## Bicycles

Document required:

- Same as Household Goods

Duty free entry as long as mentioned on removal inventory. Only Motorcycles pay duties.

## Electrical Appliances

Same documents as with Household Goods.

## Presents / Gifts / Souvenirs

As accompanied luggage there will be no duties.

If unaccompanied luggage, value cannot exceed the amount of Portuguese Escudos 15.000\$00 nor 20 Kgs weight, per shipment.

## Pets

Documents required:

- Certificate of Vaccination

Duty free entry.

All pets must be subject to medical examination before being cleared from customs.

## Horses

Documents required:

- Certificate of Foal Registration
- Veterinary Certificate
- Import licence

Subject to customs approval.

No horses should be sent without prior customs approval.

## Plants

No documents required.

Duty free entry as long as coming together with removal goods. No taxes or duties to pay.

## Restricted

- Pornographic objects
- Systems for copying Portuguese mail stamping systems
- Essences for regional wine
- Drugs
- Firearms
- Cut and thrust weapons
- Any war instrument without specific application
- Roulette or any other game of hazard
- Gold in bars
- Apes and monkeys and anything that might be an object of negotiation

## Alcoholic Beverages

Subject to payment of taxes and duties if a large quantity.

Alcoholic beverages can be import duty free if mentioned on the inventory in small quantities and not more than one bottle of each kind.

## Prohibited

- Narcotics
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Foodstuffs

## Wood Packaging Regulations

The European member states have adopted the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). This regulation requires all wood packing materials to be treated for the transport of goods to the EU from other countries.

## General Information on the Portuguese Republic

### Background

Following its heyday as a global maritime power during the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal lost much of its wealth and status with the destruction of Lisbon in a 1755 earthquake, occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, and the independence of Brazil, its wealthiest colony, in 1822. A 1910 revolution deposed the monarchy; for most of the next six decades, repressive governments ran the country. In 1974, a left-wing military coup installed broad democratic reforms. The following year, Portugal granted independence to all of its African colonies. Portugal is a founding member of NATO and entered the EC (now the EU) in 1986.

## Geography

Mainland Portugal is located in the far southwestern corner of Europe on the west of the Iberian Peninsula occupying around one-sixth of the total area. On the north and east is the border with Spain, on the west and south the Atlantic Ocean. The country has a rectangular shape, with an area of 89,000km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is Lisbon.

## Climate

Situated in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere, bathed by the Atlantic and with an 840km long coastline – which represents 41% of its borders – Portugal has a mild climate. However, the differences between north and south, the coastal areas and the hinterland, are quite sharp at certain times of the year.

The north has the highest rainfall and the lowest average annual temperatures, but the greatest temperature variations are in the interior, influenced by the continental winds blowing from the heart of the peninsula. South of the Tagus, the climate is typically Mediterranean; long warm summers, short winters with little rain and high average temperatures. The warm dry winds from North Africa influence the climate on the coast of the Algarve, with sea temperatures that can reach 22°C.

## Population

It is estimated at 10,642,836. The population is irregularly distributed in mainland Portugal. The population density is higher in the north than in the south and more concentrated along the coast than inland.

## Environmental Issues

Portugal has soil erosion, air pollution which is caused by industrial and vehicle emissions and water pollution, especially in the coastal areas.

## Language

Portuguese is the national language, although English is widely spoken followed by French.

## Religion

Freedom of conscience, religion and worship are expressed in the constitution of the Republic. The churches and religious communities have an independent existence and are separated from the state. Portugal is predominantly Catholic.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Euro.

**Notes:** 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 & 5 Euros

**Coins:** 2 & 1 Euro, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 & 1 Cents

## Economy

Portugal has become a diversified and increasingly service-based economy since joining the European Community - the EU's predecessor - in 1986. Over the following two decades, successive governments privatised many state-controlled firms and liberalised key areas of the economy, including the financial and telecommunications sectors. The country joined the Economic and Monetary Union in 1999 and began circulating the euro on 1 January 2002 along with 11 other EU members.

The economy grew by more than the EU average for much of the 1990s, but the rate of growth slowed in 2001-08. The economy contracted in

2009, and fell again from 2011 to 2014, as the government implemented spending cuts and tax increases to comply with conditions of an EU-IMF financial rescue package, signed in May 2011. A modest recovery began in 2013 and gathered steam in 2014 due to strong export performance and a rebound in private consumption. Although austerity measures were instituted to reduce the large budget deficit, they contributed to record unemployment and a wave of emigration not seen since the 1960s.

A continued reduction in private- and public-sector debt could weigh on consumption and investment in 2016, holding back a stronger recovery. The prior center-right government passed legislation aimed at reducing labor market rigidity, and, this, along with sustained fiscal discipline, could make Portugal more attractive to foreign direct investment. Under the center-right government, the budget deficit fell from 11.2% of GDP in 2010 to 3.5% in 2015, reaching the EU-IMF target of 4%, but still above its EU fiscal obligations, under the excessive deficit procedure. EU-IMF financing expired in May 2014. The new center-left Socialist government, however, has signaled that it will unwind spending cuts associated with austerity while remaining within EU fiscal targets.

## Health

The tap water in most parts of Portugal is safe to drink. It is, however, often heavily chlorinated. Chemist shops are called "FARMACIA" and are open 0900 - 1330 and 1500 - 1900 Monday – Friday. In most urban areas at least one chemist shop opens on Saturday mornings. Main areas have hospitals and clinics providing 24 hour emergency service. Other places have health clinics open from 0800 - 0200 hrs.

## Transport

**Bus / Tram:** In cities you pay the driver a flat rate or buy books of tickets from bus company kiosks.

**Taxi:** Taxi's are plentiful and cheap. They are usually painted cream and have an illuminated taxi sign. In the city they charge a standard meter fare, outside they may run on the meter or charge a flat rate and are entitled to charge for the return fare.

**Train:** There are express trains from Lisbon through Coimbra to Oporto (Alfa Trains) and regional trains (Inter-cities and Inter-regional's) connecting the different areas of Portugal, i.e. to the Algarve.

**Driving:** All motor vehicles drive on the right. Unless otherwise indicated, vehicles approaching from the right have priority at junctions. Seatbelts are obligatory. The law is strict regarding drink driving. The maximum speed in towns is 60kmph and on the main roads and motorways are 90 and 120kmph respectively. Portugal has the highest road accident rate per capita in Europe.

### **Education**

The school year is from September to June with three week breaks at Christmas and Easter. The following schools follow a UK curriculum and are suitable for expatriate children:

#### **Colegio International de Vilamoura (Age 3 - 16)**

Apartado 856  
8125 Vilamoura  
Loule  
Algarve  
Portugal  
Tel: (351) 289 366 585

#### **St Dominics International School (Age 4 - 18)**

Outeiro de Polima  
2775 São Domingos de Rana  
(outside of Lisbon)  
Portugal  
Tel: (351) 214 440 434  
[www.cidadevirtual.pt/dominics-n12](http://www.cidadevirtual.pt/dominics-n12)

#### **St Julian's School (Age 4 - 18)**

Apartado 593  
2776-901 Carcavelos  
(Outside of Lisbon)  
Tel: (351) 214 585 300  
[www.stjulians.com](http://www.stjulians.com)

#### **Oporto British School (Age 4 - 18)**

Rua da Cerca 326/338  
Oporto 4100  
Portugal  
Tel: (351) 226 180 092

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*