

WELCOME TO PORTUGAL

US EMBASSY, LISBON, PORTUGAL

Why move to Portugal?

Imagine living in a country where you can find an expansive diversity of landscapes, sandy beaches as far as the eye can see, golden plains, and mountains. As an added bonus, the Portuguese people are friendly, welcoming to all visitors regardless of where they come from and a large portion of the population speaks English.



In Portugal, the winters are mild and the summers are hot and dry. Portugal has an excellent geographical location. At the meeting point between three continents – Europe, Africa and the United States – it has always been central to the most important international routes. You can find international airports all over the country. Lisbon, Faro and Porto have regular connections to major cities in the world and the number of direct flights from the United States continues to increase.



Surf & Golf in Portugal....

Portugal has the perfect tubular waves in Peniche, giant waves in Nazaré, which is the first Surfing Reserve in Europe, and second at the world level in Ericeira. Portugal has consecutively won the award for best golf destination in Europe in the world, at the World Golf Awards, due to their unquestionable quality and scenic beauty.



American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at conslisbon@state.gov
Please enroll in STEP, our free travel messaging program, at step.state.gov.

Residency Requirements

If you wish to become resident of Portugal, you must hold a residency visa that is suitable for the purpose of your stay. You can apply for a residency visa at the Portuguese Embassy or a Portuguese Consulate in the United States. More information is available at <https://www.vistos.mne.pt/en/national-visas/general-information/where-should-you-lodge-a-visa-application#countries-s-to-z-2>.

A residency visa allows you to enter Portuguese territory for the purpose of requesting a residence permit from the Foreigners and Borders Service. (SEF)

Please note that you should make an appointment before going to one of the SEF offices, either over the phone <https://imigrante.sef.pt/en/#contactos> or through the SEF website www.sef.pt



Healthcare Services in Portugal

The National Health Service of Portugal (*Serviço Nacional de Saúde*) is available to citizens as well as both temporary and permanent residents. As an expat living in Portugal, in order to gain access to the National Medical System, you must first arrange for a Portuguese *número de contribuinte*, (Tax Number) at your local Tax Department (Financas) www.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt. Once you have your Portuguese Tax Number and residence permit, head to your nearest Health Center <https://www.sns.gov.pt/institucional/entidades-de-saude/> to receive a User's Card with a User's Number (*Número de Utente*), which will allow you access to the National Medical System. If you need to go to a hospital, the national network of units belonging to the National Medical System is available to you here: <https://www.sns.gov.pt/sns/pesquisa-prestadores/>. If you have private health insurance, check whether your insurance company has an agreement with a private hospital outside the public service.

Emergencies In the event of an emergency, contact the Emergency Number: 112.



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Obtaining a Portuguese Driver's License

IMPORTANT!!!! Upon issuance of your the residence permit, you have a deadline of 90 days to request the exchange of your driver's license.

In order to obtain a Portuguese drivers' license, the Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes Terrestres (IMT), which is the equivalent to a Department of Motor Vehicles, has advised the Embassy that one should obtain and present an Abstract of Driving Record from one's last U.S. state of residence. The document must indicate that the drivers' license issued by that



state is an authentic and valid document. The document must also show the validity of the drivers' license, date of issuance, license class, and any suspensions/revocations. This document must be notarized with an Apostille Seal by the Secretary of State of the state where the document was executed. A list of these authorities can be found on the Hague Convention website: <https://www.hcch.net/en/states/authorities/details3/?aid=353>

For further information, please contact IMT:

Telephone: + (351) 217913000 or (351) 808 201 212 Web-site: <http://www.imtt.pt/>

“Loja do Cidadão”

The “Loja do Cidadão” brings together several public and private entities in the same space. It functions as a one-stop shop where citizens and residents can apply for various services such as tax ID's, portuguese citizen cards, Social Security Numbers, National Medical System IDs, passports, and other services. <https://www.portaldocidadao.pt/>

Registering your pet in Portugal..

In Portugal, all dogs must have an electronic identification chip and a registration. Registering your dog and getting a license for him/her is compulsory and you need to do this when your pet is between 3 and 6 months old. You need to register your pet at the Junta da Freguesia (Town Hall) in the area where you, as the owner or keeper of the animal, are currently living. Find more information here:



<https://www.lisbob.net/en/blog/domestic-animals-pets-cats-dogs-portugal-guide>



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Portuguese Cuisine

Portuguese cuisine has many Mediterranean influences but is most famous for seafood. The influence of Portugal's former colonies is also notable, especially in the wide variety of spices used. These spices include piri piri (small, fiery chili peppers) and black pepper, as well as cinnamon, vanilla and saffron. Olive oil is one of the bases of Portuguese cuisine, which is used both for cooking and flavouring meals. Garlic is widely used, as are herbs, such as bay leaf and parsley.



Country Specific Information and Travel Alerts

Know before you go!

We believe a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Portugal has a level 1 travel advisory. For more country specific information about Portugal and travel alerts checkout travel.state.gov.

Help Us Help You!

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

<https://step.state.gov/>

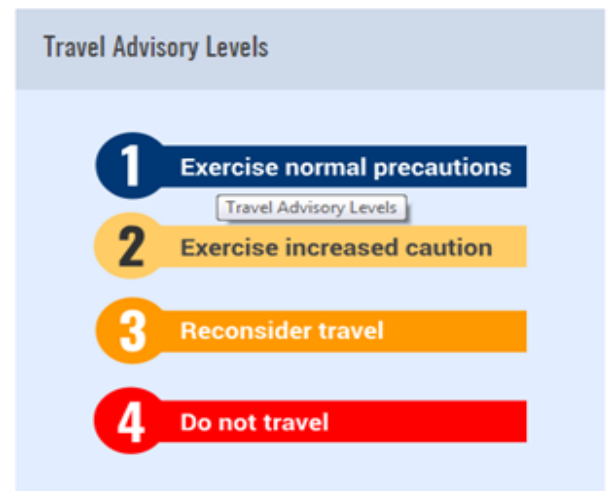
STEP enrollees receive travel and safety updates while abroad. By entering your travel itinerary and contact information in STEP, we will also be able to better assist you during an emergency.

Routine Consular Services

The U.S. Citizen Services Section at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon provides information and assistance to U.S. citizens visiting and residing in Portugal. To apply for a passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or notarial service, visit our website (Pt.usembassy.gov).

Emergency Contact Information Business Hours: (+351)21-727-3300 or (+351)21-094-2000

After-hours: (+351)21-727-3300 or (+351)21-094-2000—ask to speak to the Duty Officer



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