

# GOLDEN VISA

# PORTUGAL

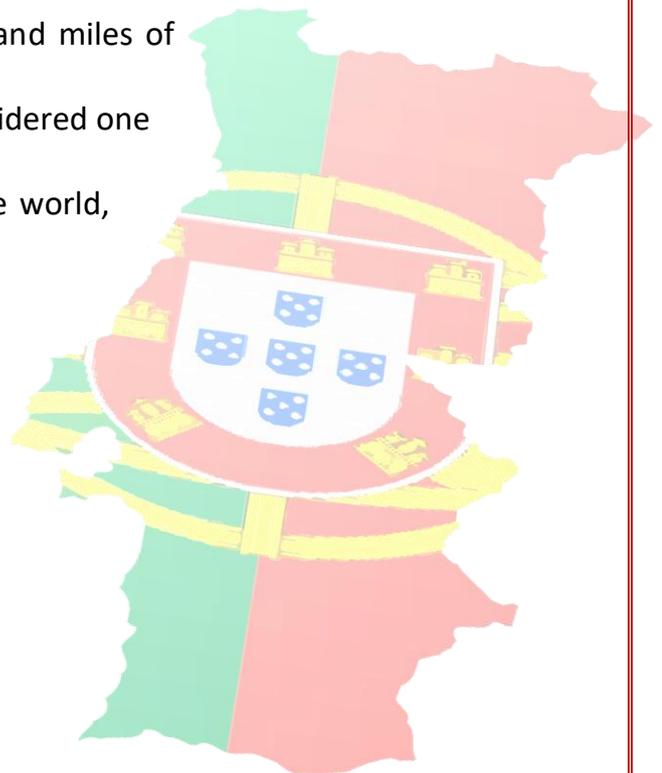


## **ABOUT PORTUGAL**

Located on the south-eastern edge of Europe, Portugal is one of the most ancient nations on the continent. With almost nine centuries of well defined geographical borders, a democratic parliamentary regime with political stability prevails in Portugal.

Portugal is a member of the European Union and forms part of the European Monetary System, using the European single currency. It is also the 46th most competitive economy, out of a total of 138 countries according to the 2016-2017 Global Competitiveness Index, produced by the World Economic Forum.

Despite its diminutive size, the country is blessed with a variety of landscapes, from verdant mountains and golden plains to beautiful river valleys and miles of sun-drenched beaches. Spanning 92,000 sq km, it is considered one of the countries with the most amenable climate in the world, boasting an average of 276 days of sunshine per year.



## DIFFERENTIATING FACTORS

Portugal has been noted for the quality of life enjoyed by its inhabitants. Safety, Development, Health and Education, and by its unique geography (climate, as well as cultural, natural and urban diversity), are the main factors that make Portugal a unique paradise in Europe.

### **BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE**

**P**ortugal features on the rankings of **best quality of life**. The *InterNations Survey* placed the country in **14<sup>th</sup>** position in its global quality of life index in 2016, standing out in the categories of safety, well-being, personal happiness and, once again, health. Lisbon is included in the *BBC Travel Top 5 cities* in the world where one can live better for less money.

### **WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

**P**ortugal's southerly latitude accounts for its Mediterranean climate. Summer months bring perfect beach days and **many hours of sunshine**, with temperatures averaging 28°C and often going well up into the middle 30s. **Winters are mild** by northern European standards, with temperatures averaging 10°C in Porto, 12°C in Lisbon. Algarve winters are especially mild, with average temperatures of 15°C. Spring and autumn months bring lovely mild weather which is perfect for sightseeing and travelling around the interior to witness the blossoming countryside in spring and the grape harvests in autumn. Intermittent showers that may occur are usually of short duration.

### **SAFETY**

**P**ortugal was named the "world's fifth most peaceful country", according to Global Peace Index (GPI) in 2016.

### **HEALTH**

**P**ortugal is in **12<sup>th</sup>** place in the *World Health Organisation's* ranking, ahead of countries like the United Kingdom and Germany. Indeed, Portugal boasts several quality infrastructures, both public and private, and the National Healthcare System is available to all citizens.

## EDUCATION

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Portugal also stands out due to the quality of its Education. There are **many quality public and private schools** in the country. There are also several well reputed **international schools** in Portugal. Regarding Higher Education, numerous Portuguese **universities** are featured on **international rankings**. The Business Schools of **Universidade Católica and Universidade Nova** in Lisbon, are well classified in the *Financial Times* main international rankings. Lisbon University and Oporto University also stand out, and feature on the Top 500 of the *Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities*, as well as the Top 200 in Engineering.

## GLOBAL POSITION

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Portugal is a member of several global and **European communities and treaties**, and is also one of the most globalised and peaceful nations in the world. It is part of the United Nations (UN), the European Union (included in the Eurozone and Schengen area), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). The CPLP includes a total population of 273 million, 3.7% of the world population, making Portuguese the 5th most spoken language in the world (by natives).

## COST OF LIVING

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The low cost of living in Portugal has attracted foreigners from all over the world.

## THE PORTUGUESE

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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 area**. A large part of the population speaks foreign languages, in particular, English.

## PROPERTY MARKET

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The **property market** in Portugal is **highly developed and stable**. It has a high relative quality of supply in all sectors, on a par with the larger core European markets, dynamic demand and a considerable presence of foreign occupiers. The market is highly transparent, with various international consultants providing information on all commercial property sectors.

## BETTER TALENT

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Portugal has a strong, flexible, committed and productive workforce with a high level of education in business-oriented areas.



## BETTER INFRASTRUCTURES

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Portugal is the **15<sup>th</sup>** country in the world with better infrastructures. Portugal has a **modern road network**. The OECD placed the country in **4<sup>th</sup>** position. Here you can find **international airports** all over the country - Lisbon, Faro and Porto have regular connections to major cities in the world. The **port** of Sines was the world's fastest growing container port recently (+68%). Finally, Portugal is the **25<sup>th</sup>** country in the world with better quality of railroad infrastructure.

## INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

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Portugal has signed agreements for the **Reciprocal Protection and Promotion of Investments**, ensuring more favourable treatment of investors and a guarantee of complete security and protection of investments already made. Portugal has also signed **Conventions to Avoid International Double Taxation** (CDT), allowing the income of a foreign national from a country with which Portugal has such a convention to benefit from lower withholding rates or total tax exemption.

**As such:**

**PORTUGAL IS AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO INVEST AND TO LIVE!**

