

This Program is adaptable.



Destination

Mainland Portugal

Diving in [Matosinhos](#), [Berlengas Archipelago](#), and [Sesimbra](#), and [Fonte da Telha](#), and [Portimão](#).

Arrival airport Porto (OPO) check direct flights [here](#)).

Departure airport Faro (FAO)

Length of stay

Fourteen nights, fifteen days.

Portugal

Portugal is Europe's most western country. Situated in the extreme southwest of Europe, just a few hours from other European capitals, Portugal attracts visitors worldwide. Portugal's territory includes the Madeira and Azores archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean. Mainland Portugal occupies an area of 88,889 km². It is 218 km wide and 561 km long. It has 832 km of the Atlantic coast and a 1,215 km border with Spain.

Portugal has been awarded for many years the World Travel Award – World's Leading Destination.



PORTUGAL - WORLD TRAVEL AWARD'S WORLD'S LEADING DESTINATION 2019, 2018, 2017

The following itinerary presents to any traveller and diver the best Portugal offers underwater. The diving plan is adaptable to recreational or technical diving in all the specified locations.



Category of stay

Solo

Couple

Family

Friends

Groups

Divers and non-divers

Info weather conditions

The weather is good all year long: summers are dry and warm, and winters are mild. In January, temperatures approach 15°C and reach 35°C in August.

Water temperatures: 15 to 21°C

Air temperatures: 11°C to 30°C

Details of program

Day 1 – Porto. You will arrive at the Porto Francisco Sa Carneiro International Airport (OPO).

Porto is the capital and gateway to the North of Portugal and the city that provided a nation with a name and a fortified wine known worldwide: Port wine.

With its splendid geographical location on the mouth of the river Douro and architectural heritage of exceptional quality, UNESCO declared the historic centre of Porto a World Heritage in 1996. Porto is the North's capital and the country's second-largest city. Its hard-working inhabitants are noted for their commercial enterprise, always standing firm against outside impositions and foreign invaders, which explains why Porto is known as the «unvanquished» city.

At the airport, the Portugal Dive buddy – your host for the next eleven days will be waiting for you. After checking in at the hotel, the group will attend a Port Wine Tasting experience. Don't drink too much, though. This is a dive trip, and you must wake up early for your first dive tomorrow.

Day 2 – Matosinhos, Porto. First-day diving. Do people tend to leave the best for last? Don't count on that. You will start with the most iconic wreck dive in Portuguese waters, the U-boat 1277.





"U Boat – 1277" is a WWII shipwreck. She was a German submarine Type VIIC/41 from the Kriegsmarine. On June 3 1945, she was scuttled by her crew to avoid the capture of the submarine by the Allies.



The wreck of U boat -1277 is located in a North-West direction from Oporto, 2 miles offshore, laying at a depth of 31mts.

Small white anemones (Sargatia Elegans) cover the submarine's hull, thousands of pouts, the largest congress in these waters, big and curious octopuses, fantastic lobsters and the magnificent

pink anemone community are some of the natural attractions of this wreck.

Other dives close to this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/matosinhos/all/all/all.html>

Days 3, 4 and 5 – Peniche, Berlengas

Archipelago. Your base for the next few days is Peniche, and you will dive into the fantastic Berlengas Archipelago. You will not believe you're diving European Continental waters. But yes, you are. Located opposite Peniche, the Archipelago consists of 3 groups of small islands: Berlenga Grande (the only inhabited one that can be visited by boat from Peniche) and the nearby reefs, Estelas and Farilhões-Forcadas; their geological nature is different from that of the Portuguese coast.



The Islands have their particular fauna and flora, with characteristics that make their ecosystem unique globally, the importance of which was recognised by the creation of the Berlenga Nature Reserve in 1981.

By the way, UNESCO recognised the Berlengas Archipelago as a unique ecosystem globally, creating the Berlenga Nature Reserve in 1981.



"Vapor do Trigo" is one of the shipwrecks you can dive into near the Berlengas archipelago small islands.

Located in a sheltered spot near the UNESCO Nature Reserve of the Berlengas Islands, the Vapor Do Trigo wreck (also known as the Andreos wreck) is a dive site that can be accessed even when the conditions are rough. Giant lobsters and Congers eels inhabit the area surrounding the boiler room. There are many interesting holes and cracks to explore along the hull, which is still very much intact.

You'll spot solo Snappers hovering around, as well as schools of them close by. Let's not forget to mention an awe-inspiring spectacle, thanks to the merging of several different currents, of the one and only Moonfish! Often you can see up to 10 of them!

Other dives on this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/berlengas/all/all/all.html>



Day 6 to 11 – Lisbon. Lisbon is Portugal's capital and the hub of a multifaceted area that appeals to different tastes and senses.

In a city that many different far-off cultures have influenced over time, each historic neighbourhood still has a village feel. Your Portugal Dive Buddy will take you on a stroll through the Pombaline grid of streets in the

Baixa district that opens onto the Tagus in Praça do Comércio, then follow the river to discover some of the city's most beautiful parts: the Cais do Sodre, the monumental area of Belém with its World Heritage monuments, to come back afterwards to the mediaeval quarters on the hill we call Alfama.

And you'll end up the day having dinner at a Fado Restaurant. Your Portugal Dive Buddy will invite you to listen to sounds that evoke the Portuguese soul. Fado is melancholic, with mourning voices expressing longing and is always accompanied by an acoustic and a Portuguese guitar.

A national symbol and included in UNESCO's list of the World's Intangible Cultural Heritage, beyond the music, Fado is a sensory experience, a journey through history, art, and Portugal's gastronomy. One more experience you'll never forget.

You will stay here for the next six days, and from here, you will dive into Fonte da Telha and Sesimbra and visit some memorable sites.



Day 7 – Fonte da Telha. You will dive offshore at the Fonte da Telha Beach dive spots.



On the first day of diving from Lisbon, we will take you to Fonte da Telha, a beautiful beach south of Lisbon, unique in Portugal because it is home to the only dive centre, with its entire operation on the beach. And Portugal has hundreds of miles of coast and numerous beaches.

"Pedra da Lagoa", or Lagoon Stone, is one of the most appreciated dives at Fonte da Telha for the life it attracts. Usually, there is some current; this is considered a dive for experienced divers that should know how to behave in such conditions. The average visibility is 10 meters, and the maximum depth is 30 meters.

This spot consists of two stones about 20 to 30 meters apart. Seabreams surround the divers as we approach the most massive stone while triggerfish and schools of pouts swim by you.



This stone has canyon-forming shelves where you can see lobsters, rock crabs, Mediterranean slipper lobsters, octopuses and many congers. The rocks are full of life; yellow, red, orange and purple are predominant colours due to the various sponges, soft corals, and starfish urchins. For this reason, some consider the "Lagoon Stone"

(translated from Portuguese) the dive where one can observe more species and a greater diversity of life in mainland Portugal.

Other dives close to this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/fonte-da-telha/all/all/all.html>



Days 8 and 9 – Sesimbra. Let's dive into the Sesimbra Marine Reserve, one of Portugal's most extensive marine reserves.

For Portuguese divers, Sesimbra is a kind of sanctuary – some call it the "Mecca" of diving in Portugal – because of everything you find underwater and also because of its location and morphology; the perfect match for a site where you dive over 330 days, on average, each year.

Sesimbra, formerly a fishing town set in a sheltered bay, was founded on the hilltop around the Moorish castle that Dom Afonso Henriques (the first King of Portugal) captured to the Moors in 1165.

Sesimbra's wealth of seafood persuaded the population to go down the hill and explore the neighbourhood, turning this town into one of the region's main fishing ports. During the 20th century, the sea attracted outsiders searching for excellent sheltered beaches with prime water sports and diving conditions, making this peaceful place a busy summer resort.

The following two days of diving will be into the Sesimbra Marine Reserve, one of the most extensive Portuguese marine reserves.



"River Gurara MV" was a Nigerian cargo motor vessel that sank on February 26 1989, in Cape Espichel, during a strong storm.

This shipwreck is one of the most popular dive spots in the Sesimbra region.

River Gurara MV, a vessel of 175 meters, was defeated by the sea's fury and sank in winter, breaking into two parts close to Cape Espichel on February 25

1989, during a strong storm.

The ship suffered a machine failure from Ivory Coast to Great Britain, laden with timber, cocoa, and other equatorial products. She was pushed by strong seas and winds, drifted as far as the rocks of Cape Espichel, and then broke in the middle, keeping its bow near the coast at an average depth of 28 meters, causing 18 victims.



River split wreck is now one of Portugal's most popular dive sites to observe marine life, which adopted their debris to protect themselves. It is also a dive spot often used for technical diving training.

You can dive both on the stern and the bow of the freighter.

You'll find that many species shelter in the wreck. Expect to see large Congers, Pouts, Seabreams, Wrasses, Morays, Squids and Octopuses.

The remaining ship is close to this beautiful spot, the so-called River Popa spot.

Here we can also find a huge variety of nudibranchs, so the camera is indispensable if you are a fan! The best time is between April and September, although some species are all year round.



The most popular course is to have the rock on our left side and round it, considering that the north side of the stone is less deep; therefore, you can have a longer dive. When following this path, it is possible to see cuttlefish, pipefish, white seabream, and several soft and hard corals mixed with schools of fish. Looking carefully, you can see some zeus faber hiding in disguise.

Please consider that there is a large sand area when rounding the rock on our right side. Look steadily for hiding flounders, stingrays and other creatures.

When the dive ends, the seabreams will escort you again halfway to the surface. Once again, we advise: keep the camera on and ready!

Other dives on this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/sesimbra/all/all/all.html>

Days 10 and 11 – Visit Lisbon. Here are some options for your most fantastic topside experience and the Portuguese capital.

LISBON

PT1 City Centre Private Tour

In a city that many far-off cultures have influenced over time, there is still a village feel in each historic neighbourhood.

On foot in the part of the town we will visit today, it is possible to discover a few of the main points of the Portuguese capital - museums, monuments, and breathtaking views.



First, starting the morning right from the top: from the walls of Castelo de São Jorge (São Jorge Castle), a view over the entire city, the other hills, the Tagus, and the rooftops. It is a serene place to savour Lisbon, to watch this city for the first time, from the top of this stronghold conquered by D. Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, from the Moors in 1147.

As you walk down the slope, catch the 28 tram opposite the Portas do Sol viewpoint, to pass (and stop) at the mythical Lisbon's Cathedral Sé de Lisboa. It's a historic building with a Romanesque design, founded where there was once a mosque and where you can currently visit the Museu do Tesouro (Treasury Museum) and the cloisters. Returning to route 28, we head in the Downtown direction, an area of the Lisbon map that is perfect for walking. Heading up towards Chiado, it's time for lunch. Whether at a pavement café or a more exclusive restaurant, there's a wide and varied choice.

Rua Augusta is a pedestrian-only street that has lots of shops, cafés and restaurants. It is the main route leading to the river. In a building that houses a bank, no 96, you can see the foundations of the city, the remains of the ancient Phoenician and Roman city, in the Archaeological Centre [Núcleo Arqueológico] of Rua dos Correeiros. In the end, climb to the top of Arco da Rua Augusta, the Arch – the view over the downtown area and River Tejo is wonderful.



Passing under the Triumphal Arch, you will find yourself in one of the most beautiful squares, Praça do Comércio. The residence of the Kings of Portugal was here during the Age of the Discoveries and, on the right-hand side, in Ribeira das Naus were the port warehouses and the beach where the ships were built. This is the great entrance hall to the city, where you can spend some quality time near the river, on a terrace or strolling along the riverside. In the Lisbon Story Centre, you can have a good introduction to the history of the city. Amongst the many trendy restaurants, the historic Martinho da Arcada, frequented by the great Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa, is still there.

PT2 West Side Private Tour

This side of Lisbon is known as the Lisbon of the Discoveries, a historical period that is of great importance for Portugal.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Belém was a popular neighbourhood, a busy harbour from which the ships and caravels set out on their great Atlantic voyages. Ships, oars, sails and ropes were part of the day-to-day bustle and the sailors would pray for divine protection in a small chapel dedicated to Saint Mary, before heading off to faraway destinations.



Belém is still an important district today, but for other reasons. Several monuments, museums and a large landscaped area beside the river make it a very pleasant place for a stroll.

Two of Lisbon's most emblematic monuments are here, the Jerónimos Monastery, on the site of the former chapel of Santa Maria, and the Tower of Belém. These two jewels are worthy representatives



of the Manueline style and are classified as World Heritage. You can see the ringed sphere of King Manuel I, who had them built, and a number of marine motifs, ropes, plants and even fantastic animals. The Monastery was built with 5% of the value of the spices brought back from the Orient. They included pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, which are part of Portuguese cuisine.

PT3 Parque das Nações – the modern Lisbon Private Tour



It's worth setting a day for visiting the Parque das Nações, in the eastern part of Lisbon. It is an area of modern architecture, excellent for walking, cycling or skateboarding and spending some quality cultural and leisure time.

This was an old run-down industrial area that stretched for more than five kilometres along the River Tagus but was completely rebuilt to host the Lisbon Universal Exhibition of 1998 (Expo 98). Buildings and amenities of great quality were designed and later integrated into the urban fabric of the city after the end of the event, thus creating the most modern area of the city.

One imminent landmark is the Oriente Station. Designed by the renowned Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava, the complex structure of vertical lines is reminiscent of Gothic arches. Continue to the Portugal Pavilion, designed by Álvaro Siza Vieira in collaboration with Eduardo Souto de Moura, two of the most prominent Portuguese architects. Its structure is based on the idea of a sheet of paper sitting on two bricks and went from drawing board to reality using an impressive construction in pre-stressed concrete in the form of a visor. Right next door is the Atlantic Pavilion, designed by Regino Cruz. While its outer appearance resembles a spaceship or a marine animal, the wooden structure that supports the roof evokes a 16th-century ship.



Another space you simply must visit is the Lisbon Oceanarium, one of the largest in Europe, designed by Peter Chermayeff. The various marine environments on the planet are recreated so accurately that they almost seem real, and they surround a gigantic central tank populated by the most diverse species.

With every step in unique Lisbon, there's always something extraordinary to marvel at. A gorgeous building more interesting than the last, a particular historical event, a colourful street or a pleasant square, a beautiful shop or a lovely "café", restaurants with fantastic food and wine tasting, or the breathtaking views of the many belvederes of Lisbon.

These are some of the ingredients of the Portugal Dive Lisbon Private Tours.

But visiting Lisbon also means enjoying great food and fantastic wine. Therefore, we have included in this itinerary two fabulous dining experiences.

We will put together an event trying to emulate the typical Portuguese lunch or dinner: enthusiastic people, and lots of discussions – maybe about the diving days we will have the following days – around a wine and cheese table in a historic Lisbon neighbourhood.



The last night we will go to a Fado Restaurant, an opportunity to listen to sounds that evoke the Portuguese soul. Fado is melancholic, with mourning voices expressing longing accompanied by an acoustic and a Portuguese guitar.

A national symbol included in UNESCO's list of World's Intangible Cultural Heritage, beyond the music, Fado is a sensory experience, a journey through the history, art and gastronomy of Portugal. One more experience you'll never forget.



Visiting Lisbon, in a nutshell



You may love Lisbon for the monuments, ideal conditions for the practice of sport or delicious gastronomy. Even for all these reasons and more. One thing is sure: all the time in the world won't be enough to enjoy all to do and see in the capital. Make your choice, and let Lisbon blow your heart away. Some of Lisbon's most popular attractions are not included in the habitual compilations of the top 10 tourist spots, and we will use the time we have to show you the best.

Despite the region having plenty to offer that goes beyond what you will find just in the city, the city itself creates unforgettable moments in unexpected places: for example, the romance of catching tram 28 and getting a glimpse of the inside of the houses that decorate the climb up to Graça. Or the unique feeling of arriving at Cascais by train, having travelled along the coast beside the mouth of the Tagus, although this one is mentioned here only to tease you and for you to know that you must come back.

Days 12 to 15 – Algarve, Praia da Rocha;

Located by the mouth of the Arade river, Rocha Beach extends over a vast area of sand, some 3 kilometres long, irregularly broken up by odd rock formations that the sea has been carving out throughout tens of thousands of years.

Bathed by a calm and warm sea that provides for risk-free swimming, Rocha Beach houses many facilities for some different sports, including the Ocean Revival Park.



You will stay here for the last part of your trip, diving into the wrecks of the Ocean Revival Park and enjoying everything else Rocha Beach has to offer.

The "Comandante Hermenegildo Capelo Frigate" is the second frigate in a group of four ships ordered in 1964 by the Portuguese Navy. When it was brought into active service for the Portuguese Navy on April 26 1968, it took part in several African missions, various national and international exercises, search and rescue missions, and inspection of the exclusive economic zone. It also undertook voyages for the instruction of naval college trainees.



This shipwreck is part of the Ocean Revival Project. The Ocean Revival Project was born to promote Algarve's underwater tourism, making it an exceptional destination. The other three ships make part of this project: "Corveta Oliveira e Carmo", "Patrulha Zambeze", and "Navio Hidrográfico Almeida e Carvalho".

The Ocean Revival Park is a group of shipwrecks worth being explored! The lower decks are only accessible to experienced divers as it is necessary to have reasonable buoyancy control not to raise sediments.

However, there is still a lot to explore on the superior decks. There you will find lots of life. You can observe several schools of fish, namely triggerfish and seabreams, that act almost like "dive guides" as they

accompany us throughout the entire dive. They are the actual hosts of these wrecks!

Other dives close to this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/prai-da-rocha/all/all/all.html>

And on **Day 14** – **Algarve, Sagres**; you rest.

Yes, it's the final surface interval day — time to enjoy more of the Algarve.

Visiting Sagres, the southwestern tip of the Algarve, you'll discover where Portuguese sailors departed many centuries ago to find new land like the one we call today, Brazil.



Before having a fantastic dinner at Vila do Bispo in the afternoon, we will walk around one more fishing village where today tourists and fishers coexist harmoniously.

Day 15 – Faro; We will drive you to the Faro International Airport (FAO). It is time to start thinking about your next dive trip to Portugal.



PORTUGAL from Top to Bottom

Best Diving Itinerary



Price NET per person

[Pricing on Request](#)

Included

Fifteen days/ fourteen nights in 4-star hotels, room for 2, continental breakfast

Eight days of diving, sixteen dives

Tanks – AIR and weights

Transportation for the whole trip (15 days)

Tours (options depending on the time of arrival to Porto and departure from Lisbon)

- "Zona Ribeirinha"
- Port Wine Tasting Experience
- Visit Nazaré and "Nazaré's Big Cannon"
- Visit Peniche
- Visit Óbidos
- Visit Cabo Espichel
- Visit Lisbon
- Visit Sintra

Dinner at a Fado restaurant

Excluded

International flights

Meals or drinks that are not mentioned.

Equipment and diving computer

Options on request

12 ltr tank Nitrox +10,00 EUR

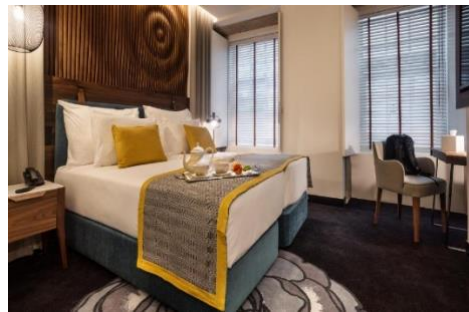
15 ltr tank +10,00 EUR

Other visits and activities



Place of stay - Porto

Pousada do Porto - Rua das Flores ****



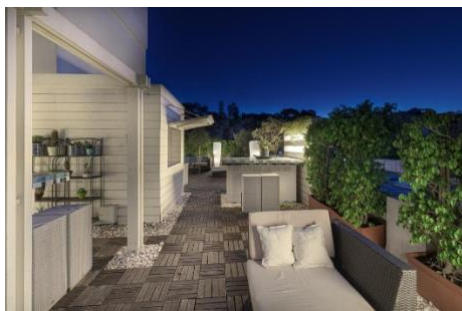


Place of stay - Peniche
MH Peniche ****



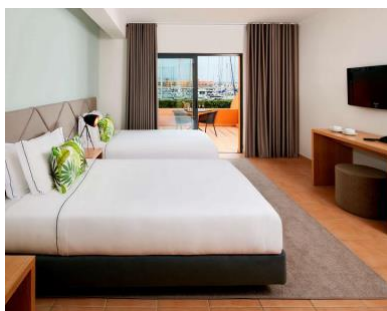


Place of stay - Lisbon
Hotel Lisboa Plaza ****





Place of stay – Praia da Rocha
Hotel Tivoli Marina ****





About Porto



Porto is the capital and gateway to the North of Portugal and the city that provided a nation with a name and a fortified wine known worldwide: Port wine.

With its splendid geographical location on the mouth of the river Douro and an architectural heritage of exceptional quality, the historic centre of Porto was declared UNESCO World Heritage in 1996. Porto is the capital of the North and the second largest city in the country; its hard-working inhabitants are noted for their commercial enterprise, always standing firm against outside impositions and foreign invaders, which explains why Porto has become known as the «unvanquished» city.

In addition to its history, any visitor will be quickly impressed by the city's and its inhabitants' forceful character.

This city's impressive contrasts are evident on a gentle stroll through its streets. Take time to admire the typical granite houses and monuments, enjoy a tram riding along the banks of the river, or even go for a boat ride under the city's six bridges, from where you can enjoy an entirely different view of the city. The "Baixa (Downtown)" of Porto, with all the rhythms of city life, its movement, and intense retailing. A very peculiar expression bestows a Nordic, mercantile tone onto a city that is both spiritually and intensely baroque. In sharp contrast, in Serralves Park, there is the sheer modernity of the building housing the Museum of Contemporary Art and the romantic, soothing surroundings of the surrounding leafy park.



About Peniche



Peniche and the sea are inseparable. It is one of Portugal's largest traditional fishing ports and a central Atlantic hub for maritime-tourist activities.

Your visit to Peniche must include a walk through the historic centre. Besides the Nossa Senhora dos Remédios Sanctuary, the São Pedro and Misericórdia Churches, the Peniche Fort is a must-see. It was built in the 16th/17th centuries to defend the coast, the Fort on Consolação beach and the fort on the Island of Berlengas. It played a significant role at various points in Portuguese history. Still, its most recent purpose was to serve as a political prison under the Estado Novo regime, holding some essential public personalities in the fight against Fascism. You will learn about it once inside since it is currently the Peniche City Museum.

In addition to fishing, which has always been one of the sources of income for its people, Peniche is also known for the art of bobbin lacework, perfected by the women while the men were out at sea.

The sea is still one of the main points of interest and development, and the beaches at Peniche are much appreciated. While Consolação and Baleal bays provide good shelter for a family day out, the waves on this west coast, such as the Supertubos (tubular Supertube waves) off Medão Grande Beach, are much sought after by surfers and bodyboarders from across the world. It was elected one of "Portugal's 7 Wonders" in a national tournament. Together with Lagido Beach, it is the setting for the world surf championship, Rip Curl Pro Portugal, which is part of the World Surf League Tour.

Naturally, the sea dominates the local cuisine, so you mustn't leave Peniche without tasting the bouillabaisse, the seafood rice or the charcoal-grilled sardines, always accompanied by the Western region's wines. We recommend almond cakes, whether an "Amigo de Peniche" or the biscuits called "Esses" for dessert.



About Lisbon



Lisbon is Portugal's capital and the hub of a multifaceted area that appeals to different tastes and senses.

In a city that many far-off cultures have influenced over time, there is still a village feel in each historic neighbourhood. Stroll through the Pombaline grid of streets in the Baixa district that opens onto the Tagus in Praça do Comércio, then follow the river to discover some of the city's most beautiful parts: the monumental area of Belém with its World Heritage monuments, the mediaeval quarters and the latest contemporary leisure spaces, such as the Parque das Nações.

If you continue to the mouth of the river, you'll understand why we say that Lisbon is the centre of a vast resort. Along the coastal road, you'll find beaches and beach resorts that combine villas and hotels from the beginning of the 20th century with marinas, terraces and excellent golf courses. Further along the coast, you'll come across world-renowned surfing beaches and palaces scattered across the cultural landscape of Sintra, a World Heritage Site.

The wide variety of landscapes and heritage is always close by, whether to the North or south of the capital. With beaches, natural parks, cultural routes and accommodations for all tastes, it is hard to escape the Lisbon region on a visit to Portugal.



About Portimão - Praia da Rocha



Praia da Rocha is a beach and built-up area on the Atlantic Ocean in the southern section of the Portimão region, Algarve, south Portugal.

The vast beach stretching for over a kilometre and sheltered by beautiful, craggy cliffs in warm colours is why Rocha Beach is one of the best-known beaches in Portugal and a top choice among summer holidaymakers. Walkways crisscross the whole beach alongside many support infrastructures for beachgoers, including a sports area.

Up on the seafront avenue is a succession of hotels, bars, open-air cafés, discos and a casino, all eventually leading up to Portimão Marina and providing an array of tourist activities that bring added colour and complement the entertainment on the beach.

There are two elevated viewpoints at the far ends of the beach, Três Castelos to the west and the Santa Catarina Fortress at the entrance to the harbour on the River Arade. Both afford fabulous panoramic views over the coastline between Ponta João d'Arens, and Ponta do Altar. Although this is a busy town beach popular with tourists, Rocha is so impressive and beautiful that its natural scenery still seems to come to the fore.

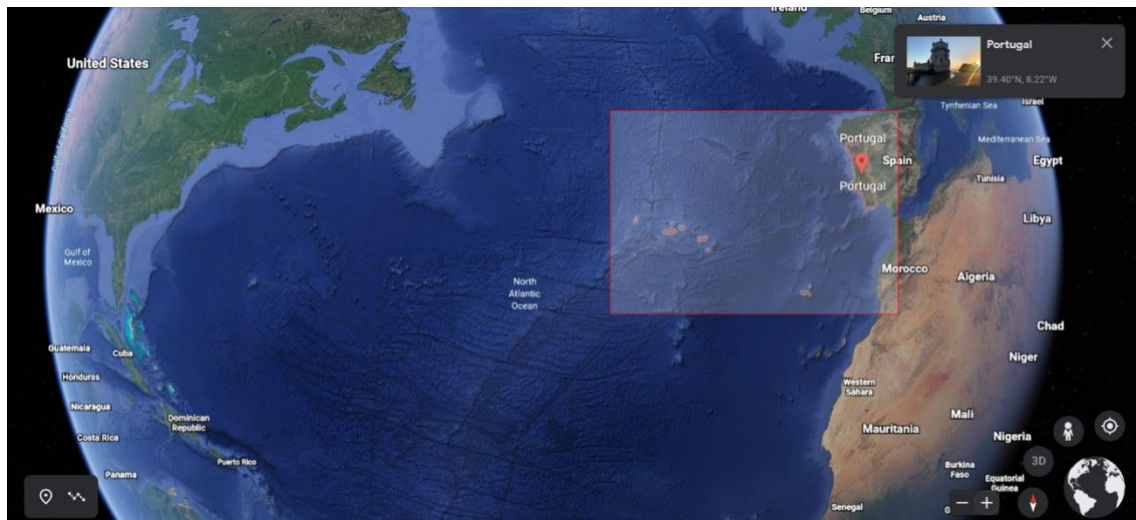


About Portugal

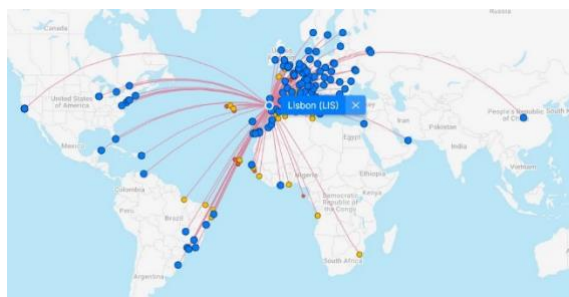
Portugal is the [most western territory in Europe](#), has a coastal range of 1000+ miles with hundreds of beach sites, and is a synonym for pleasant temperature and sunshine all year round.

Portugal is also a synonym of peacefulness, being considered the third most peaceful country in the world (ref. [Global Peace Index](#)).

LOCALISATION



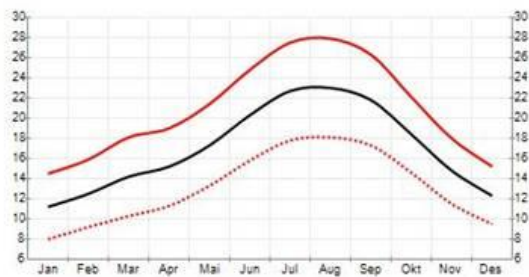
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO PORTUGAL



Over 150 airports worldwide have direct flights to Lisbon (LIS), spread around 138 cities in 50 countries.



Average temperature per month



Average days with precipitation per month



PORTUGAL IDENTITY CARD

Source: Visit Portugal, the Portuguese Tourism Board website

With its mild climate, 3000 hours of sunshine per year and 850 km of splendid beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is the perfect holiday destination all year round.

Portugal is the country that has the oldest borders in Europe, with an exceptional range of different landscapes just a short distance away, lots of leisure activities and a unique cultural heritage where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony. Its superb cuisine, fine wines and hospitable people make this a tourist paradise of the highest quality.

Situated in the extreme southwest of Europe, just a few hours from other European capitals, Portugal attracts visitors from all over the world.

GEOGRAPHY

Portugal is situated in southwest Europe, including the Madeira and Azores archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean. Mainland Portugal occupies an area of 88,889 km². It is 218 km wide and 561 km long. It has 832 km of the Atlantic coast and a 1,215 km border with Spain.

The Azores are situated in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and North America. They have an area of 2,355 km² and consist of nine islands - São Miguel and Santa Maria in the Eastern Group, Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial in the Central Group and Flores and Corvo in the Western Group. By plane, it takes two hours to get from the Azores to mainland Portugal.

The Madeira Archipelago has an area of 741 km² and lies in the Atlantic Ocean, about 500 km from the African coast and 1,000 km from the European continent (1½ hours flying time from Lisbon). It consists of Madeira and Porto Santo islands and the uninhabited Desertas and Selvagens islands, which are nature reserves.

CLIMATE

Mainland Portugal

The climate in Portugal varies considerably from one region to another. It is influenced by the relief, latitude and proximity to the sea, which offers mild winters, especially in the Algarve.

In the Porto e Norte area and Beiras region, particularly inland, nearer Spain, the winters are colder, although the temperatures are mild compared to the rest of Europe. There is some snowfall. It occurs most in the Serra da Estrela mountains, where we find the highest point in mainland Portugal (1,991 m) and where it is sometimes possible to ski.



The summers are hot and dry, especially in the inland areas (Trás-os-Montes in north-eastern Portugal and Alentejo). Temperatures are slightly lower in the coastal regions because of the influence of the sea.

There are often warm, sunny days in autumn. Nice weather at the beginning of November is often called "St. Martin's Summer", as this saint's day is November 11.

Azores

The climate in the Azores is influenced by the islands' latitude and the Gulf Stream, and temperatures are mild all year round. The same factors also influence the sea temperature, which is very pleasant both in winter and summer and ideal for nautical sports all year round.

Madeira

Its geographical position and mountainous relief can explain the subtropical characteristics of the weather in the Madeira Archipelago. The climate in Madeira is exceptionally mild, with average temperatures varying between 24 °C in summer and 19 °C in winter.

The sea temperature is enjoyable all year round, thanks to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream. It varies between 18 °C in winter and 22 °C in summer.

POPULATION

Portugal has a population of about 10 million.

The population density is at its greatest in Lisbon, the capital and its suburbs, where about 1.9 million people live. The second-largest city in Portugal is Oporto in the North.

Generally speaking, more people live in the country's coastal regions than in inland areas.

RELIGION

Most Portuguese are Catholics, but the Portuguese Constitution guarantees religious freedom, and there are many different religions in Portugal.

LANGUAGE

From a Latin root, Portuguese is spoken by about 250 million people in every continent and is the 5th most spoken language in the world and the 3rd if we only consider the European languages.

Portuguese-speaking countries are scattered all over the world. Portuguese is the official language in many African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe), in South America (Brazil) and Asia (East Timor, the youngest nation in the world), and it is also the official language in Macao Special Administrative Region of China.

In Portugal, many people can communicate in English, French and Spanish.

Source: VisitPortugal.com