

📍 Porto

# Trip Notes: Portugal

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid US passport with at least **three months beyond your planned date of departure from the Schengen Area** is required. (We recommend six months for flexibility.) A visa is **not required** for US citizens visiting Portugal or other Schengen countries for stays **up to 90 days within a 180-day period**.

### Entry/Exit System (EES):

EES will start operations on **12 October 2025**, with gradual introduction at EU external borders. Full implementation expected by **10 April 2026**. Until then, passports will continue to be manually stamped.

### ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System):

Expected to launch in **late 2026** for visa-free travelers (ages 18–70). Required for entry into **30 European countries**, including France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. Cost: about **€20**, valid for 3 years or until your passport expires. Application completed online prior to travel.

**Schengen Area countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

**UK (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland):** Requires a separate ETA for visits up to 6 months. Cost: £16 [Apply here](#).

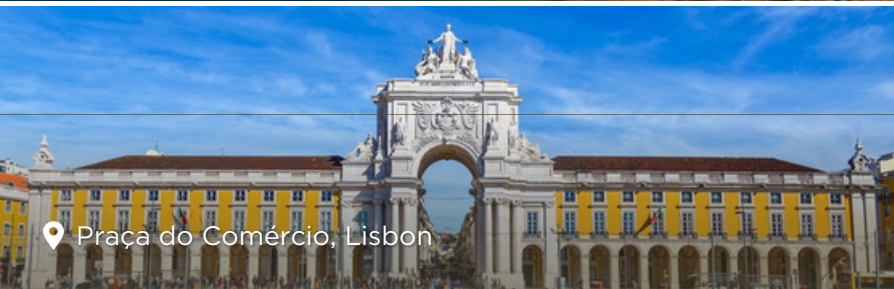
## CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The official currency is the **Euro (€)**.

- Cards widely accepted, but small towns may prefer cash.
- ATMs available; notify bank before travel.
- Credit card required for hotels/car rentals.



📍 Cascais



📍 Praça do Comércio, Lisbon



📍 Lisbon skyline with São Jorge Castle

## INTERNATIONAL LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Varies by airline. Check baggage limits before commencing travel.

Reference: FAA Pack Safe.

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial **112** for police, ambulance, or fire.

## PHONES & INTERNET

- From US to Portugal: 011 + 351 + local number.
- From Portugal to US: 00 + 1 + area code + number.
- SIM/eSIMs: Vodafone, MEO, NOS.
- Wi-Fi common in hotels, cafés, cities.

## HOTELS

- Standard check-in: **3-4PM**
- Check-out: **11AM-12PM**
- Early check-in/late check-out may be available on request.

## TIPPING

Modest compared to the United States.

- **Restaurants:** Round up, or 5-10% for excellent service.
- **Taxis:** Round up.
- **Hotels:** €1-2 per bag; small tip for housekeeping.

## FOOD & WINE

Portugal is renowned for its rich culinary heritage and distinctive wines, where tradition and creativity combine to create unforgettable flavors.

- Portugal is famous for seafood (grilled sardines, bacalhau cod dishes, cataplana).
- Pastéis de nata (custard tarts) are iconic.
- Wine: Port (Douro Valley), vinho verde, Madeira wine.
- Legal drinking age: 18.

## SHOPPING & VAT

- Typical hours: 9 AM-7 PM, often closed Sundays. Shopping malls open later.
- VAT: **23%** (refund on purchases over €50 from a single retailer).



📍 Igreja do Carmo, Porto



📍 Lisbon



📍 Pena Palace, Sintra

## Popular Souvenirs

- **Cork products** (bags, wallets)
- **Portuguese tiles** (azulejos)
- **Embroidery** (Madeira)
- **Ceramic roosters** (Galo de Barcelos)
- **Port wine & Madeira wine**
- **Olive oil, canned sardines**

## TIME

Portugal is on **Western European Time** (WET):  
GMT (GMT +1 during daylight saving).  
Azores: GMT -1.

## LANGUAGE

Official language: **Portuguese**. English is common in tourist areas.

## Common Phrases

- Hello - *Olá*
- Goodbye - *Adeus*
- Thank you - *Obrigado/a*
- Please - *Por favor*
- Excuse me - *Desculpe*
- Do you speak English? - *Fala inglês?*

## ETIQUETTE

- **Greetings:** Handshake; friends may kiss both cheeks.
- **Dining:** Keep hands visible (not in lap); finish all food on plate.
- **Dress:** Smart casual; modest for churches.
- **Punctuality:** Flexible socially, expected for business/tours.

## CLIMATE

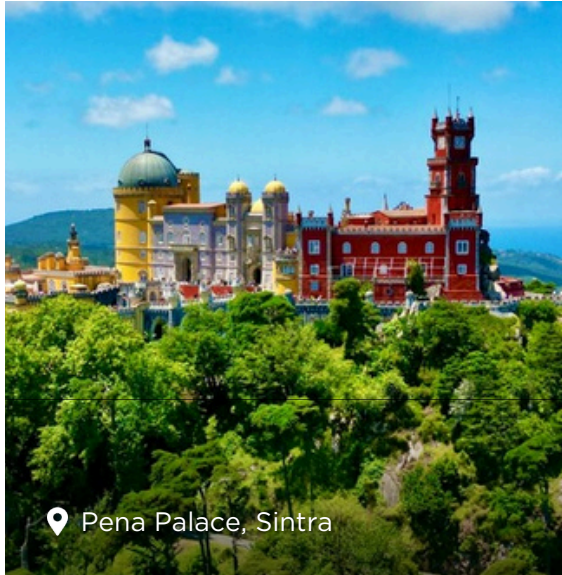
- **North (Porto, Douro):** Cool, rainy winters; warm summers.
- **Lisbon & Central:** Mild winters, hot dry summers.
- **Algarve:** Warm year-round, very hot summers.
- **Islands (Madeira, Azores):** Mild and subtropical.

## POWER

Electricity is **230V, 50Hz**; Portugal uses **plug types C & F**. Bring a universal adapter.



📍 Chiado, Lisbon



📍 Pena Palace, Sintra



📍 Eduardo VII Park, Lisbon

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January – **New Year's Day**

**Good Friday & Easter Sunday**

25 April – **Freedom Day**

1 May – **Labor Day**

10 June – **Portugal Day**

15 August – **Assumption Day**

5 October – **Republic Day**

1 November – **All Saints' Day**

1 December – **Restoration of Independence**

8 December – **Immaculate Conception**

25 December – **Christmas**

## DRIVING

- Drive on the **right-hand side**.
- **Speed limits:** 50 km/h (urban), 90 km/h (roads), 120 km/h (motorways).
- US license + **International Driving Permit** (IDP) required for rentals.
- Toll roads common – some require electronic payment devices.

## OTHER USEFUL LINKS

**US State Department Travel Advisories**

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

**US Embassy Lisbon:**

<https://www.usembassy.gov/portugal/>

**Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**

<https://step.state.gov>

**US Passports**

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

**International Travel Guidance**

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>