



## DID YOU KNOW...



...THAT the first buildings with an anti-earthquake system built in the world were the ones in downtown Lisbon after the major 1755 earthquake? This part of the city is called «Baixa Pombalina».

...THAT there are 23 golf courses in the Lisbon Region?

...THAT Portugal is a state-of-the-art reference and reliability in the moulds industry? Samsonite, Nokia, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche are just some of the famous names that rely on Portuguese talent and engineering.

...THAT machinery is Portugal's No. 1 export? International demand for machinery made in Portugal (moulds, electronics, automotive components, pneumatic and hydraulic equipment, etc.) continues to grow and assist the development of countries throughout the world.

... THAT Portugal leads the world in footwear technology? That it is Europe's No. 3 exporter? That it invented bullet-proof shoes? Ninety million people in the world choose Portuguese shoes. Steven Spielberg is one of them: the Portuguese brand Swear supplied the shoes for Star Wars. And Fly London and Aerosoles just keep growing.

... THAT 26 million Americans sleep on Portuguese sheets?

And that Portugal leads Europe in home textiles and is the third largest exporter in the world? Portuguese brands stand out because of their sheer innovation: intelligent Fabrics, fabrics that are fire-retardant, anti-bacterial and have therapeutic and hydrating properties.

...THAT in International Wine Challenges Portugal won 265 medals - 16 of which were gold?

...THAT Portugal is building Europe's largest solar power station? And that wind power is the main target for investment?

...THAT Portugal is a unique destination: no other country in Europe can offer so much diversity within such short distances?





## HOST COUNTRY

Portugal is located in south-western Europe, in the Iberian Peninsula. It is the western most country of mainland Europe and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south and by Spain to the north and east. The Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are also part of Portugal.

The land within the borders of today's Portuguese Republic has been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times. Portugal has witnessed a constant flow of different civilizations during the past millennia. From prehistoric cultures to its Pre-Roman civilization, through to its contacts with the Phoenician-Carthaginian world; the Roman period that began in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC followed by the Germanic invasions from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and the Moorish invasion of Hispania in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century.

During the Christian Reconquest period, Portugal became an independent kingdom (1143). In a little over a century, Portugal was to establish almost its entire modern-day borders by reconquering territory from the Moors.

We can say that Portugal was born as one of several Christian kingdoms created in the Iberian Peninsula as the Moors were pushed further south and gradually gave up the territories they had conquered in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the glorious Discovery Period, Portugal controlled a global empire that included possessions in Africa, Asia, and South America, being one of the world's major economic, political and military powers.

The 1755 earthquake, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, armed conflicts with French invading forces and the loss of its largest territorial possession abroad, Brazil, disrupted political stability and potential economic growth. After the Portuguese Colonial War and the Carnation Revolution in 1974, the ruling regime was deposed and the African colonies became independent. Portugal's last overseas territory, Macau, was handed over to China in 1999.

Portugal is a developed country and has a high Human Development Index. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> most peaceful and the 13<sup>th</sup> most globalized country in the world, and ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in terms of high quality of life, despite having the lowest GDP per capita among Western European countries. It is a member of the European Union (joined the EEC in 1986, leaving the EFTA where it was a founding member in 1960) and the United Nations (since 1955); as well as a founding member of the Latin Union, the Organization of Ibero-American States, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (Community of



Portuguese Speaking Countries, CPLP), and the European Union's Euro zone. Portugal is also a Schengen state.

## **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Portugal is a democratic republic ruled by the 1976 Constitution with Lisbon, the nation's largest city, as its capital. The four main governing bodies are the President of the Republic, the Parliament, known as Assembly of the Republic, the Government, headed by a Prime Minister, and the courts. The constitution grants the division or separation of powers among legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Portugal, like most European countries, has no state religion, making it a secular state.

## **CLIMATE**

The climate can be classified as Mediterranean type. Portugal is one of the warmest European countries; the annual mean temperature in mainland Portugal is 13 °C (55 °F) in the north and 18 °C (64 °F) in the south. The Madeira and Azores Atlantic islands have a narrower temperature range. Extreme temperatures occur in the mountains of north-eastern parts of the country in the winter (where they may drop to -10 °C) and south-eastern parts in the summer (sometimes reaching 40°C). Sea coastal areas are milder. The average annual temperature of the sea is 17.5°C (63.5°F).

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Portugal has a rectangular shape with 89,000 sq.km of area. The Tagus (Tejo) is the most important of the 4 major rivers crossing the land and is considered the dividing element between north and south. The northern landscape is mountainous in the interior areas, with plateaus indented by river valleys.

From the Tagus to the south, Alentejo area offers extensive rolling plains with a climate somewhat warmer and drier than in the cooler and rainier north.

## **DEMOGRAPHY**

According to the 2001 census, the population totalled 10.355.824 inhabitants, formed by 52% women and 48% men. By 2007, the number reached a little over 10.500.000 people, which 332.137 were legal immigrants. For geography and size reasons, Portugal has traditionally been a country of emigration (the vast majority of Brazilians have some Portuguese ancestry), with inflows from India, Africa and Far East Asia. Since the 1990s, along with a boom in construction, several new waves of Ukrainians, Brazilians, and people from the former Portuguese African colonies, Romanians, Moldovans and Chinese have



also chosen Portugal as their destination. A number of EU citizens from the United Kingdom, Spain and other EU member states are also permanent residents in the country. Portugal's Gypsy population, estimated at about 40,000, offers another element of ethnic diversity. Most gypsies live apart, and primarily in the south. They can often be found at rural markets selling clothing and handicrafts.

## RELIGION

Church and State were formally separated during the Portuguese First Republic (1910–26), a separation confirmed in the Portuguese Constitution of 1976. Portugal is a secular state and Roman Catholic society. 84.5% of the population is Roman Catholic and 2.2% follow other Christian denominations.

## LANGUAGE

Portuguese is a Latin-based language and the third most widely spoken European language. It is the mother tongue of about 200 million people. Portuguese is the official language in several countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe, in Africa, and Brazil in South America. In Portugal, a considerable number of people can understand and communicate in foreign languages.

## ECONOMY

Portugal's economy is based on services and industry, such as software and the automotive industry. Business services have overtaken more traditional industries such as textiles, clothing, footwear, cork and wood products and beverages (wine, beer, juice, soft drinks). The country has increased its role in the automotive, mould-making and software sectors. Manufacturing accounts for 33% of exports. Portugal is the world's fifth-largest producer of tungsten, and the world's eleventh-largest producer of wine. Agriculture and fishing no longer represents the bulk of the economy. However, Portugal has a strong tradition in the fisheries sector and is one of the countries with the highest fish consumption per capita. Portuguese wines, namely Port Wine (named after the country's second largest city, Porto) and Madeira Wine (named after Madeira Island), are exported worldwide. Tourism is also important, especially in mainland Portugal's southernmost region of the Algarve and in the Madeira Island. Tourism has developed significantly and generates approximately 5% of the wealth produced in Portugal. Fisheries and agriculture now account for about 4% of the GDP.

Portugal was one of the founding countries of the euro in 1999, and therefore is integrated into the Euro zone.