



## PORTUGAL

<b>EU MEMBER SINCE</b>	1986
<b>OTHER MEMBERSHIPS</b>	NATO, Schengen Area, Eurozone, Bologna Process, OECD
<b>CURRENCY</b>	€ (EURO)
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Lisbon
<b>AREA</b>	92,090 sq km
<b>POPULATION</b>	10,799,270 (July 2013 est.)
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Portuguese, Mirandese
<b>RELIGION</b>	Roman Catholic 84.5%, other Christian 2.2%, other 0.3%, unknown 9%, none 3.9% (2001 census)
<b>GDP</b>	\$ 22,315 (2011)
<b>GNI</b>	\$ 21,210 (2011)
<b>SGI</b>	6.59 out of 10 (2011)
<b>CPI</b>	63 out of 100 (2012)
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b>	Manueline style, Azulejo ceramic; Álvaro Siza, Tomás Taveira
<b>LITERATURE</b>	João Baptista da Silva Leitão de Almeida Garrett, Camilo Castelo Branco, Luís de Camões, Fernando Pessoa, Eça de Queiroz
<b>MUSIC</b>	Fado, Folclórico dance, hip hop Tuga; Artur Pizarro, Amália Rodrigues, Mísia, Mariza, Madredeu, Rodrigo Leão, Da Weasel, Blind Zero
<b>PAINTING</b>	Nuno Gonçalves, José de Almada Negreiros, Nadir Afonso, Amadeo de Souza Cardoso
<b>CUISINE</b>	Feijoada (a stew), Bacalhau (dry cod), Pastel de nata. <b>Delicacies:</b> Pastel de Belem, Coelho a caçador, Linguica, Presunto
<b>DRINKS</b>	Vinho Verde, Vinho de Douro, Port wines, Moscatel
<b>CONSUMPTION</b>	14.55 equivalent liters of pure ethyl alcohol per capita per year (WHO, 2005)
<b>SPORTS</b>	Luis Figo, Christiano Ronaldo

### Bogdan Scurtu *On Portugal*

1 May 2013

**Europe's West Coast** is Portugal's official country brand. If the message wasn't clear, let me translate: it's Europe's California! You've got it all, only better: in a 81% catholic country, there are big waves, surfers, sun, renewable energy (43% of the entire electricity), a drug policy more liberal than in the Netherlands, Europe's oldest wineries, and great churrascarias. The hippest neighborhood in Lisbon is Bairro Alto, that attracts on its narrow streets, bohemian and eclectic crowds, from punks to gays, goths, hipsters, students and executives. If you visit, just make sure that if someone sneezes, you tell them Santinho! (to a man) or Santinha! (to a woman), which means "little saint."



Porto, Ribeira District © JoJan, Wikimedia Commons

### **EU Connection**

Portugal's integration in the EU in 1986 strengthened democratic institutions after decades of military dictatorship and boosted the economy due to increased access to foreign markets and the influx of capital from the "Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund."

One of the southern countries in Europe with economic difficulties, Portugal received a €78 billion Euro bailout in 2011 with a maturity of 7.5 years and an interest rate of 5.5-6%. The loan was conditioned by budget deficit targets and austerity measures, including cuts in healthcare, public administration, education, added levies on pensions over €1,500 a month, zero new spending on the military, the privatization of state companies and other such measures; see [Terms of EU/IMF bailout for Portugal](#).

Portugal is the home country of Jose Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission from 2004 to 2014, the most powerful office in the EU. The Lisbon Treaty, the constitution-like document of the EU, was signed in Portugal's capital in 2007.

### **Lineage, History and Idiosyncrasies**

Portuguese view themselves as "homogeneous" Mediterranean Muslim African stock, according to the [Portugal.com tourism](#) site. They proudly claim to be the descendants of the Indo-European Lusitanians. Only small fragments from the Lusitanian language and culture remain today. Elements of and similarities with the Celtic culture and language exist and the Celtic ancestry is confirmed by modern DNA tracing.

Fleeing the Paleolithic Ice Age, the first settlers migrated from the British Isles and Northwestern Europe. Indo-European colonization from Western Asia and the Middle East was followed by Roman rule. The Germanic tribes invaded in the fifth century, and the Moors conquered the entire Iberian Peninsula in the eighth century introducing Islam. Christian Reconquista brought independence for the County of Portugal in 1139. The Moors and the Jews were expelled by 1492.

Portugal was one of Europe most powerful colonial powers, with a global expansion reaching from Brazil to Angola, Mozambique and other parts of Africa, Goa and other territories in India, Macau, and East Timor.

The carnation revolution of 1974 was a bloodless left wing coup that ended overseas colonization. In the contemporary political spectrum, the country bounces between socialism and neoliberalism, with two main parties competing for power – the Socialists and the Social Democrats, plus some additional parties with a smaller share of the votes.



Belem Tower, Lisbon © D. Feliciano, Wikimedia Commons

### **Culture, Arts, and Sports**

*Manueline* traditional architecture style is a Portuguese late Gothic, opulent, with many maritime elements. The Folclórico is one of the most popular regional dances, and the yearly Goa Trance Festival in central Portugal, draws huge crowds. *Fado* is a classical Portuguese folk music genre and our music playlist features *fado* singers such as Amália, Mísia or Mariza as well as other musicians such as [Madredeu](#), [Rodrigo Leão](#), hip-hop artist [Da Veasel](#) and rock stars such as Blind Zero. Similar to other places in Europe, soccer is the king sport, and superstars born here include Luis Figo and Cristiano Ronaldo.

### **Food and Wine**

If you love Brazilian churrascarias, wait until you try the Portuguese ones! Locals claim that the original Portuguese food concept with unlimited amounts of barbecued meat and side dishes, will win over even vegetarians. Other popular Portuguese dishes include the *feijoada* (a stew made of beans), and different dishes resulting from the various cooking styles of the *bacalhau* (dry cod). Portuguese cuisine is also known for delicious pastries such as the *Pastel de nata*, an egg tart pastry popular today especially in Asia, due to the Portuguese colonial influence.

In terms of drinking, the Duoro wine region is one of the oldest wine regions in the world. Even the Romans in the antiquity associated the god of wine, Bacchus, with Portugal. Today's claims to fame in the wineworld include Vinho Verde, Vinho de Douro, the Port wines and the Moscatel.

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GSJ is published at [Stony Brook University](#) by the Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies (SBIGS)