

**Portugal** (Portuguese: [[puɾtuˈɣal]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Portuguese)), officially the **Portuguese Republic** (Portuguese: *República Portuguesa* [[ʁɛˈpuβlikɐ puɾtuˈɣezɐ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Portuguese)), is a country located mostly on the [Iberian Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula%22%20%5Co%20%22Iberian%20Peninsula) in [southwestern Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Europe%22%20%5Co%20%22Southern%20Europe). It is the westernmost [sovereign state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state%22%20%5Co%20%22Sovereign%20state) of [mainland Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mainland_Europe%22%20%5Co%20%22Mainland%20Europe). It is bordered to the west and south by the [Atlantic Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean%22%20%5Co%20%22Atlantic%20Ocean) and to the north and east by [Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain%22%20%5Co%20%22Spain). Its territory also includes the Atlantic [archipelagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archipelago%22%20%5Co%20%22Archipelago) of the [Azores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azores%22%20%5Co%20%22Azores) and [Madeira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madeira), both [autonomous regions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomous_regions_of_Portugal%22%20%5Co%20%22Autonomous%20regions%20of%20Portugal) with their own [regional governments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_government).

Portugal is the oldest state on the Iberian Peninsula and one of the oldest in Europe, its territory having been continuously settled, invaded and fought over since [prehistoric times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_Iberia%22%20%5Co%20%22Prehistoric%20Iberia). The [Pre-Celts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Celtic%22%20%5Co%20%22Pre-Celtic), [Celts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celts%22%20%5Co%20%22Celts), [Carthaginians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Carthage%22%20%5Co%20%22Ancient%20Carthage) and [Romans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic) were followed by the invasions of the [Visigoths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visigoths) and [Suebi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suebi%22%20%5Co%20%22Suebi) [Germanic peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples%22%20%5Co%20%22Germanic%20peoples).

Portugal as a country was established during the Christian [*Reconquista*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista) against the [Moors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moors%22%20%5Co%20%22Moors) who had invaded the Iberian Peninsula in 711 AD. Despite attempts at independence since its foundation as a county in 868, only after the [Battle of São Mamede in 1128](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_S%C3%A3o_Mamede%22%20%5Co%20%22Battle%20of%20S%C3%A3o%20Mamede), where Portuguese forces led by [Afonso Henriques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afonso_Henriques) defeated forces led by his mother, [Teresa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theresa_of_Portugal), the [County of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_of_Portugal%22%20%5Co%20%22County%20of%20Portugal) affirmed its sovereignty and Afonso styled himself Prince of Portugal. He would later be proclaimed [King of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Portugal) at the [Battle of Ourique in 1139](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ourique%22%20%5Co%20%22Battle%20of%20Ourique) and was recognised as such, by neighbouring kingdoms, on the [Treaty of Zamora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Zamora%22%20%5Co%20%22Treaty%20of%20Zamora), in 1143.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal established the [first global empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), becoming one of the world's major economic, political and military [powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_superpower%22%20%5Co%20%22Education%20superpower). During this period, today referred to as the [Age of Discovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Discovery), Portuguese explorers pioneered maritime exploration, notably under royal patronage of Prince [Henry the Navigator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_the_Navigator) and King [John II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_II_of_Portugal), with such notable voyages as [Bartolomeu Dias](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomeu_Dias%22%20%5Co%20%22Bartolomeu%20Dias)' sailing beyond the [Cape of Good Hope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_of_Good_Hope) (Cabo da Boa Esperança) (1488), [Vasco da Gama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama)'s [discovery of the sea route to India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discovery_of_the_sea_route_to_India%22%20%5Co%20%22Discovery%20of%20the%20sea%20route%20to%20India) (1497–98) and the European discovery of [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil%22%20%5Co%20%22Brazil) (1500). During this time Portugal monopolized the [spice trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spice_trade%22%20%5Co%20%22Spice%20trade), and the empire expanded with military campaigns in Asia. However, events such as the destruction of [Lisbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon%22%20%5Co%20%22Lisbon) in a [1755 earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon_Earthquake), the [Industrial Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution%22%20%5Co%20%22Industrial%20Revolution), the [Seven Years' War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Years%27_War%22%20%5Co%20%22Seven%20Years%27%20War), the country's occupation during the [Napoleonic Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars%22%20%5Co%20%22Napoleonic%20Wars), and the [independence of Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_of_Brazil%22%20%5Co%20%22Independence%20of%20Brazil)(1822), erased to an extent Portugal's prior opulence.

After the [1910 revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5_October_1910_revolution) deposed the monarchy, the democratic but unstable [Portuguese First Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Portuguese_Republic) was established, later being superseded by the [*Estado Novo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estado_Novo_%28Portugal%29) right-wing authoritarian regime. Democracy was restored after the [Carnation Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnation_Revolution%22%20%5Co%20%22Carnation%20Revolution) in 1974, ending the [Portuguese Colonial War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Colonial_War). Shortly after, independence was granted to almost all [its overseas territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese-speaking_African_countries%22%20%5Co%20%22Portuguese-speaking%20African%20countries). The [handover of Macau to China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfer_of_sovereignty_over_Macau%22%20%5Co%20%22Transfer%20of%20sovereignty%20over%20Macau) in 1999 marked the end of what can be considered the [longest-lived colonial empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Portuguese%20Empire).

Portugal has left a profound cultural and architectural influence [across the globe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution_of_the_Portuguese_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Evolution%20of%20the%20Portuguese%20Empire), a legacy of 300 million [Portuguese speakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lusophone), and many [Portuguese-based creoles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese-based_creole_languages). A member of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) and the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union%22%20%5Co%20%22European%20Union), Portugal was also one of the founding members of [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO), the [eurozone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurozone%22%20%5Co%20%22Eurozone), the [OECD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OECD), and the [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_of_Portuguese_Language_Countries%22%20%5Co%20%22Community%20of%20Portuguese%20Language%20Countries). It is a [developed country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index%22%20%5Co%20%22List%20of%20countries%20by%20Human%20Development%20Index) with a high-income [advanced economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country%22%20%5Cl%20%22IMF_advanced_economies%22%20%5Co%20%22Developed%20country) and high [living standards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_standard). It is [the 4th most peaceful country in the world,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Peace_Index) and its state is the [15th most stable one](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Fragile_States_Index), maintained under a [unitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state%22%20%5Co%20%22Unitary%20state) [semi-presidential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-presidential_system%22%20%5Co%20%22Semi-presidential%20system) [republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) form of government. Additionally, the country ranks highly in terms of [democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy%22%20%5Co%20%22Democracy) (10th), [social progress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Progress_Index) (20th), [prosperity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legatum_Prosperity_Index%22%20%5Co%20%22Legatum%20Prosperity%20Index) (25th), [press freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index%22%20%5Co%20%22Press%20Freedom%20Index) (14th), [moral freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Index_of_Moral_Freedom) (3rd), [LGBTI rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBTI_rights) (7th in Europe), [ease of doing business](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ease_of_doing_business_index%22%20%5Co%20%22Ease%20of%20doing%20business%20index) (29th) and [road network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roads_in_Portugal) (2nd).

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| **Portuguese Republic***República Portuguesa* ([Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language%22%20%5Co%20%22Portuguese%20language)) |
| Flag of Portugal[Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Portugal){{{coat_alt}}}[Coat of arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Portugal) |



[Aroeira 3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aroeira_3) skull of 400,000 year old [*Homo heidelbergensis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo_heidelbergensis), the oldest trace of human history in Portugal





Reconstructed house in [Citânia de Briteiros](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cit%C3%A2nia_de_Briteiros) (up) and paved yard in [Cividade de Terroso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cividade_de_Terroso) (down), examples of [Celtic Castro Culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castro_culture%22%20%5Co%20%22Castro%20culture)of [Northern Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Portugal%22%20%5Co%20%22Northern%20Portugal) ([9th century BC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_century_BC) – [1st century](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_century).



The [Megalithic Monuments of Alcalar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megalithic_Monuments_of_Alcalar%22%20%5Co%20%22Megalithic%20Monuments%20of%20Alcalar), built in the [3rd century BC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_century_BC)Southern Portugal



[Roman Temple of Évora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Temple_of_%C3%89vora), in the [Alentejo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alentejo), is one of the best preserved [Roman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_civilization)-built structures in the country



[Centum Cellas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centum_Cellas), in the [Beira region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beira_%28Portugal%29), is a Roman [*villa rustica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_rustica)from the [1st century CE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_century_CE).



The Caliphate of Cordoba in the early 10th century



[Silves Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_of_Silves), a Moorish-era fortification in the [Algarve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algarve)



Statue of [Abu-l-Qasim Ahmad ibn al-Husayn ibn Qasi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu-l-Qasim_Ahmad_ibn_al-Husayn_ibn_Qasi) outside the [Castle of Mértola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_of_M%C3%A9rtola%22%20%5Co%20%22Castle%20of%20M%C3%A9rtola), in the [Alentejo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alentejo).



[Afonso Henriques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afonso_Henriques) was the last [Count of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Count_of_Portugal%22%20%5Co%20%22Count%20of%20Portugal) and the first [King of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Portuguese_monarchs) after winning the [Battle of Ourique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Ourique%22%20%5Co%20%22Battle%20of%20Ourique) in 1139. (*Depicted in a 1530's [illuminated manuscript](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illuminated_manuscript%22%20%5Co%20%22Illuminated%20manuscript)*)



[John I of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_I_of_Portugal)'s victory at [Battle of Aljubarrota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Aljubarrota%22%20%5Co%20%22Battle%20of%20Aljubarrota) secured the [House of Aviz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Aviz%22%20%5Co%20%22House%20of%20Aviz)'s claim to the throne. Painting of 1480.



[Batalha Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batalha_Monastery) was erected by King John I to commemorate his victory in the [1383–1385 Crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1383%E2%80%9385_Portuguese_interregnum)against Castile.





[Vasco da Gama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama) (left) and Prince [Henry the Navigator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_the_Navigator) (right), figures of the [Portuguese discoveries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_discoveries)



The areas across the world that were, at one point in their history, part of the [Portuguese Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Portuguese%20Empire).



The [1st Marquis of Pombal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sebasti%C3%A3o_Jos%C3%A9_de_Carvalho_e_Melo%2C_1st_Marquis_of_Pombal) effectively ruled Portugal during the reign of King [José I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_I_of_Portugal).



The [Departure of the Portuguese Royal Court to Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfer_of_the_Portuguese_Court_to_Brazil%22%20%5Co%20%22Transfer%20of%20the%20Portuguese%20Court%20to%20Brazil) in 1808



[António de Oliveira Salazar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ant%C3%B3nio_de_Oliveira_Salazar) ruled Portugal from 1932 to 1968, within the [Estado Novo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estado_Novo_%28Portugal%29) regime.



The [Treaty of Lisbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Lisbon%22%20%5Co%20%22Treaty%20of%20Lisbon) was signed in 2007, when Portugal held the presidency for the [European Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Council%22%20%5Co%20%22European%20Council).



[Peneda-Gerês National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peneda-Ger%C3%AAs_National_Park) is the only nationally designated park in Portugal, owing to the rarity and significance of its environment.



The [Marinha Beach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praia_da_Marinha%22%20%5Co%20%22Praia%20da%20Marinha) in [Lagoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagoa%2C_Algarve%22%20%5Co%20%22Lagoa%2C%20Algarve), [Algarve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algarve) is considerated by the [Michelin Guide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelin_Guide) as one of the 10 most beautiful beaches in Europe and as one of the 100 most beautiful beaches in the world.









 an [Estrela Mountain Dog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estrela_Mountain_Dog), a [Eurasian otter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_otter%22%20%5Co%20%22Eurasian%20otter), a [European bee-eater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_bee-eater%22%20%5Co%20%22European%20bee-eater), and a [Lusitano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lusitano) horse.



[Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcelo_Rebelo_de_Sousa), [President of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Portugal).



[António Costa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ant%C3%B3nio_Costa), [Prime Minister of Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Portugal).