



Portugal - Low



Portugal Country Map



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 26 March 2025

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite a previous economic crisis, Portugal has remained a secure, relatively prosperous, and democratic country. The country's travel security environment is benign, with petty crime presenting the greatest threat to travellers. Crime rates are relatively low, though they have been steadily increasing. Opportunistic criminals are most common in urban areas, including Lisbon, as well as in beach resorts popular with tourists. Visitors to Portugal should exercise sensible security precautions, such as limiting overt displays of wealth and maintaining situational awareness.

In recent years, environmental risks have noticeably increased. The threat of wildfires has become a significant one, with recent summers having been particularly characterised by fires. Opposingly, torrential rains have led to more major floodings in urban centres than ever before, like in December 2022.

The terrorism threat is negligible. However, there remains a heightened risk of terrorist attacks globally, conducted by individuals or groups motivated by conflicts in places such as Syria and Iraq. Potential attacks would most likely be perpetrated by self-radicalised individuals using low-tech means, such as knives or vehicles to inflict casualties.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- Portuguese is the official language. English and French are often understood in business and political circles. Many Portuguese can also speak, or at least understand, Spanish.
- Catholic traditions continue to have a strong influence on the lives of Portuguese people. Travellers are advised to respect local culture and religion.
- A reasonable restaurant and taxi tip is 10 percent of the total amount.
- Homosexuality and same-sex marriage are legal in Portugal.

KEY FACTS

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Lisbon
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	21
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	351
CURRENCY	Euro
ELECTRICITY	230 volts, 50 cycles AC
GMT	0 (Azores -1)
LANGUAGES	Portuguese, Mirandese
LEADERSHIP	Chief of State: President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa; Head of Government: Prime Minister Luís Montenegro
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday-Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	Portuguese Republic
PLUG STYLES	Type C & Type F
RELIGION	Roman Catholic 79.7%, Protestant 2.2%, other Christian 2.5%, other non-Christian, 1.1%, none 14.5%
TIME ZONE OFFSET	No UTC offset

KEY FACTS	
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary Democracy

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Low

The threat posed by political instability in Portugal is low.

The Portuguese political system operates as a parliamentary democracy with a multi-party system and has been a democratic republic since 1974. A Prime Minister is drawn from elected representatives as head of government. The head of state is the President of Portugal and serves largely a symbolic and ceremonial role. Portugal has a unicameral parliament called the National Assembly which comprises of 230 deputies elected every four years. In common with most European democracies, the largest centre-left and centre-right parties have dominated politics since the 1970s.

The last Portuguese legislative election was held on 10 March 2024 following previous Prime Minister Antonio Costa's resignation due to alleged corruption. The Democratic Alliance was formed between the Social Democratic Party, People's Party, and the People's Monarchist Party, and formed a minority government. The current Prime Minister is Luis Montenegro and took office on 2 April 2024. The current President is Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, and was elected in the 2021.

Armed Conflict - Low

Portugal is a founding member of NATO and its only land border is with Spain, another alliance member, making the risk of armed conflict on Portuguese territory negligible. Portugal has previously supported UN missions in Afghanistan and Mali, EU operations for maritime counter-piracy, African peacekeeping and NATO operations including Baltic air policing.

The country's principal diplomatic disputes are with neighbouring Spain over the uninhabited islands of Olivenza and the Savage (known as 'Ilhas Selvagens' in Portuguese), fishing rights, and environmental issues. Nonetheless, such disputes are likely to be settled through diplomatic channels and unlikely to trigger inter-state conflict.

Terrorism - Low

Despite Portugal's small but active involvement in military operations around the globe and its geographical proximity to the often-turbulent North Africa, Portugal has one of the lowest terror threat ratings in Europe.

In the event of a terrorist attack, probable perpetrators would be self-radicalised lone-actors. Attacks could be indiscriminate and could target government buildings, tourist sites and major transport hubs. Despite the low risk of a terror attack taking place in Portugal, travellers are reminded of the heightened threat of terrorist attacks globally, and as such, should maintain a high degree of situational awareness and vigilance at all times. There are no known domestic terror groups operating in Portugal.

Crime - Low

The overall crime rate in Portugal is low. Violent crime is rare and unlikely to impact travellers. Petty crimes are the most likely to affect travellers. Hotspots of mugging and violent crime are present in some major towns and cities, particularly the Barrio Alto in Lisbon and Porto.

Petty crime follows patterns found across southern and Mediterranean Europe, with street sellers and pickpockets targeting high-density tourist spots on an opportunistic basis. Bag snatching and theft do occur at beaches and on public transport. Thieves have been frequently reported across parking areas in an attempt to target vehicles, all belongings and valuables should be kept in safe and secure places.

Sexual assaults are rare however reports of date rape drugs do still occur.

Travellers should ensure they keep sight of their drinks at all times and avoid beverages from strangers. Caution should be taken after dark and in busy bars or nightclubs.

Civil Unrest - Low

Over the past five years, demonstrations have increased in frequency and can disrupt the transport system. Principally occurring in Lisbon and Porto, protests are generally peaceful, however, travellers are advised to avoid all protests as a safety precaution as, when violence does occur, it occurs without warning. Previous protests have arisen in response to tax reforms and political changes.

Pre-football game violence has become a recognised issue, although is of far lower severity than seen in Eastern Europe.

Labour and worker unions occasionally announce industrial action and strikes over work-place grievances or salary disputes. Strikes, particularly those launched by the transport sector, are likely to trigger localised travel and business disruptions.

Maritime and Piracy - Low

Fatal accidents at sea occur frequently on Portugal's Atlantic coast where seas can turn rough with little notice. Visitors are advised to heed lifeguards' advice and warnings. Portugal is a transit country for drugs entering the EU, typically via boat from its island territories. Businesses with a requirement to operate vessels or equipment on this route should take care to avoid complicity.

Health - Low

Portugal operates a health insurance system with state support. EU travellers should carry their Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) and non-EU travellers are advised to carry proof of insurance to ensure rapid treatment without upfront cash payment. Medical facilities are generally of a very high standard and able to treat

a full spectrum of diseases and injuries. Much of Portugal's border with Spain is mountainous and visitors to these areas should remain aware that the terrain and weather may delay medical response. Specialised treatment for residents on Portugal's islands may require a visit to the mainland.

Environmental - Low

Fires in northern Portugal, especially in the summer, can be devastating and occur with little warning. The summer of 2022 saw the nation's worst heatwave, with record temperatures reached, and the resulting fires were catastrophic. At one point at least 80% of the mainland was at exceptional risk of wildfires. A nationwide state of alert was put in place with particularly bad blazes in Pombal, Ansiao and Leiria. In July 2024, Portugal was severely affected by wildfires, particularly in the Algarve and Cascais regions. The fire has resulted in several fatalities and numerous casualties, with thousands of people evacuated from their homes.

Adhering to local guidance and being aware of local media reports will allow travellers to take appropriate actions in preparation for any of these events. In 2017, wildfires killed over 100 people between June and October.

High winds can affect travel within and to the Azores and Madeira. Portugal is in an active seismic zone and the most recent major earthquake, in 1980, caused damage and death in the Azores.

Mainland Portugal is prone to occasional storms which can lead to flash floods that can cause deaths, significant damage, and considerable erosion.

If swimming travellers should ensure they use beaches operated by lifeguards and follow the warning flags. Strong underflows and hidden rocks are present in these waters, travellers should take appropriate precautions and exercise caution if swimming.

Transportation - Low

Drivers operate on the right-hand side of the road in Portugal. Roads are well constructed and maintained however drivers are often aggressive and operate at

high speeds. Deaths attributed to road accidents in Portugal are two times greater than in the United Kingdom. This equates to 5.9 road deaths per 100,000 of the population and compares to the UK average of 2.8 road deaths per 100,000 of the population. Driving in the Azores can present a challenge due to narrow roads, blind corners and livestock on the roads. Pathways are likely to be narrow and uneven, and poor weather and heavy rain are likely to create slippery and dangerous paths. Caution should be exercised and travellers should ensure they leave details of their plans with a point of contact as communications are difficult to establish in Madeira.

Portugal's public transport is well developed. Portugal has an extensive railway network. There are various types of trains and trams from inter-regional trains to urban commuter trains and high-speed trains. Trains are affordable and accessible. Despite being popular, trains can allow for opportunistic theft and petty crime. Travellers who are unfamiliar with train services may find the transport difficult to navigate and overcrowded. Travellers should avoid public transport if they are unfamiliar with the country. Underground services are also available however there remains a heightened risk of petty theft. Taxis are widely available and typically marked with an "A". All Taxis use meters and travellers should ensure it is used. Taxis marked with a "T" can be hired by private companies, these typically are charged at a higher rate. Longer journeys, luggage and after-dark travel can incur additional costs. Foreign travellers can fall victim to additional charges or overcharging, it is advised they negotiate a price before travel. Uber and other app-based services are available in Porto and Lisbon. Although popular travel there have been reports of theft and assault. The services often lack regulation and drivers are not adequately licensed. It remains advisable that travellers should use pre-booked licensed drivers. Portugal has around 10 international airports and all are well connected and relatively cheap. Airports are close to major cities however those further away are easily accessible. Buses in Portugal are complicated and costly. Each district has its own bus service; however, inter-district services are poorly connected. English translations are harder to come by on bus services and those outside of major cities can be more complicated.

EMERGENCY DETAILS

EMERGENCY DETAILS

SOLACE GLOBAL:- +44 (0)1202 795801.

GENERAL EMERGENCIES:- 112.

BRITISH EMBASSY LISBON:- +351 21 392 4000, U.S EMBASSY LISBON:- +351 21 770 2122.

POLICE NUMBER

112

AMBULANCE NUMBER

112

FIRE NUMBER

112

EMERGENCY DETAILS

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Drivers operate on the right hand side of the road in Portugal. Roads are well constructed and maintained however drivers are often aggressive and travel at high speeds. Driving in the Azores can present a challenge due to narrow roads, blind corners and livestock on the roads. Public transport is widely available although expensive with many taxis not providing a meter. Travellers should agree on a price before using a taxi. Travel to Madeira poses a number of environmental threats. Travellers should ensure they have suitable equipment and clothing for the levadas. Pathways are likely to be narrow and uneven, poor weather and heavy rain are likely to create slippery and dangerous paths. Caution should be exercised and travellers should ensure they leave details of their plans with a point of contact as communications are difficult to establish in Madeira. **General Advice for Travel Safety**

- Consider avoiding cheaper accommodation: Ensure your room door and windows can be safely locked, and that the hotel has a 24hr reception.
- Avoid walking alone and isolated areas during night hours. Minimise travel after dark as risks are not entirely mitigated even when in a small group, including those involving men.
- Be aware when in restaurants and bars and always keep an eye on your drink; never accepting food or drink from strangers.
- Avoid getting overly intoxicated.
- Always maintain a formal tone with strangers, or recent acquaintances, following the aforementioned precaution around your beverages. It is always advised not to go to bars and clubs alone.
- If confronted with an uncomfortable or threatening situation, attempt to leave, otherwise try to attract attention to yourself and call for help.
- Do not hesitate to go to the police if feeling uneasy or threatened. Even a phone call is often enough to prevent harassment.
- If you become the victim of assault, or suspect you have been, you should seek professional medical advice and support immediately as well as informing the police.

In Portugal the specific risk to higher vulnerability travellers is low. However, following common sense precautions and maintaining good situational awareness is important to minimise threats.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 21, 2025

- **December Solstice:** Portugal - Seasonal

DECEMBER 24, 2025

- **Christmas Eve:** Portugal - Observance

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Portugal - National

DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Portugal - Observance

JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year's Day:** Portugal - National

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

- **Valentine's Day:** Portugal - Observance

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

- **Carnival / Shrove Tuesday:** Portugal - Local holiday

MARCH 19, 2026

- **St. Joseph's Day:** Portugal - Santarém - Local holiday
- **Father's Day:** Portugal - Observance

MARCH 20, 2026

- **March Equinox:** Portugal - Seasonal

SIGNIFICANT DATES

MARCH 29, 2026

- **Daylight Saving Time starts:** Portugal - Clock change

APRIL 03, 2026

- **Good Friday:** Portugal - National

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Easter Sunday:** Portugal - National

APRIL 25, 2026

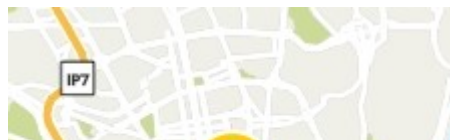
- **Liberty Day:** Portugal - National

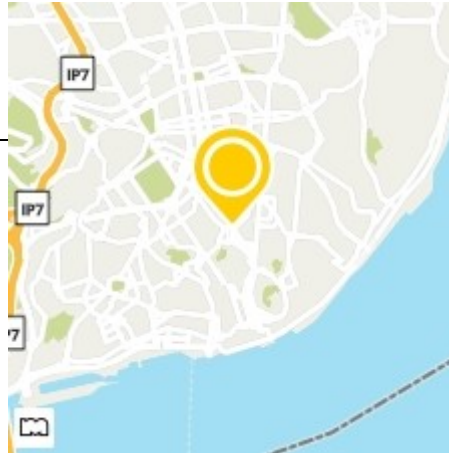
MAY 01, 2026

- **Labor Day / May Day:** Portugal - National

RECENT ALERTS

YELLOW RAIN WARNINGS ACTIVE ACROSS MOST OF PORTUGAL





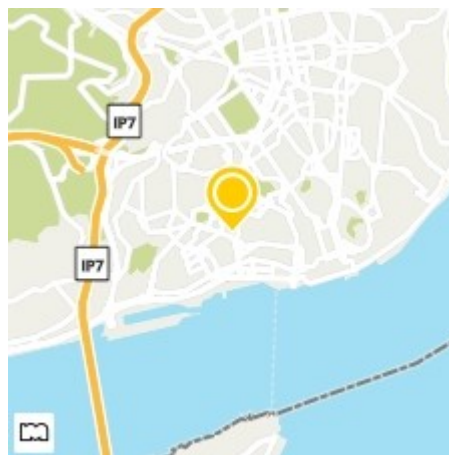
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



12-Dec-2025 06:22

Portugal's Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) has issued yellow rain alerts for most of the country, warning that in some areas, heavy rain could cause disruption to daily activities. IPMA has also issued a coastal advisory for waves reaching up to 5 metres for the entirety of Portugal's coastline. The warnings will be in effect until 18:00.

UPDATE: HEIGHTENED POLICE PRESENCE REPORTED OUTSIDE THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT BUILDING AMID ACTIVE LABOUR REFORM PROTESTS



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

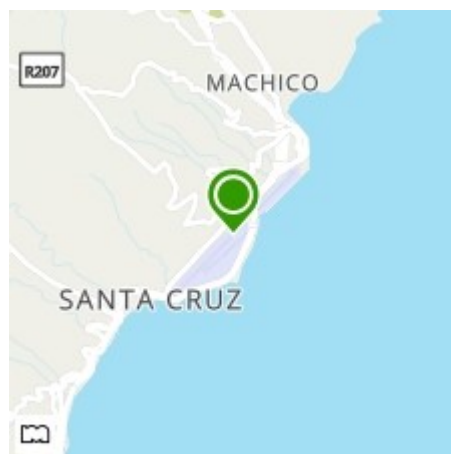
RECENT ALERTS



11-Dec-2025 21:50

According to local media, police have increased their presence outside the Portuguese Parliament, São Bento Palace, in response to protests over proposed labour reforms. The reforms have triggered the first nationwide general strike since 2013 and have caused operational disruptions at several airports across the country. Clashes have been reported between demonstrators and security forces, including the limited use of tear gas near the main entrance to the palace to disperse crowds. There are currently no reports of casualties or arrests. Monitoring continues, and further updates will be issued if warranted.

DISRUPTIONS EXPECTED AT MADEIRA AIRPORT (FNC) UNTIL 13 DECEMBER DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER EFFECTS



Category: Travel Information - **Risk:** Low



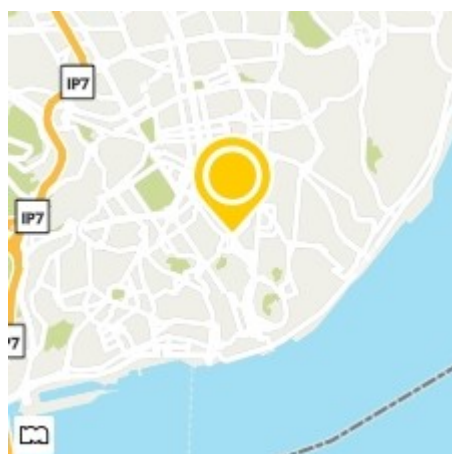
11-Dec-2025 09:36

According to local media sources, disruptions are expected at Madeira Airport International Cristiano Ronaldo (FNC) due to adverse weather conditions until

RECENT ALERTS

13 December. The Portuguese Institute of the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA) has issued yellow-level wind warnings for the entire archipelago as well as an orange weather warning for mountainous regions. Winds are expected to reach up to 90 kilometres per hour, and flight cancellations have already been reported. We will continue to monitor the situation should adverse weather effects continue past 13 December.

GENERAL STRIKE IN LISBON TO COMMENCE TODAY, 11 DECEMBER



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

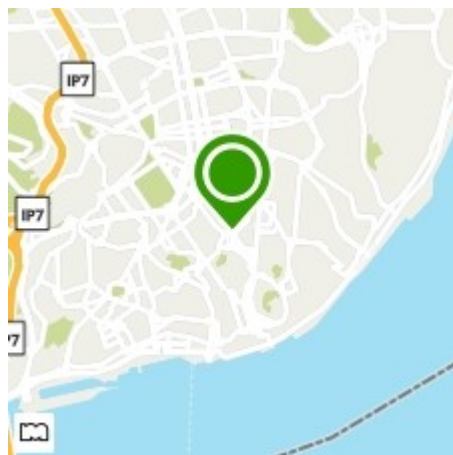


11-Dec-2025 07:20

Local media have confirmed that the general strike in Lisbon is set to commence today, 11 December, in the first general strike in Lisbon since 2013. Large parts of the public sector are forecast to be disrupted, and significant traffic disruptions are expected from 1400 as multiple main roads in downtown Lisbon are expected to be closed due to demonstrations. Some airlines, including Etihad and Emirates, have cancelled flights to Lisbon Humberto Delgado Airport (LIS) due to the strike. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates should the strike result in further significant disruptions.

RECENT ALERTS

GENERAL STRIKE IN LISBON SCHEDULED FOR 11 DECEMBER



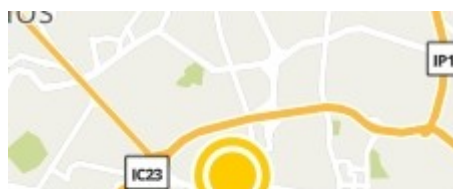
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low

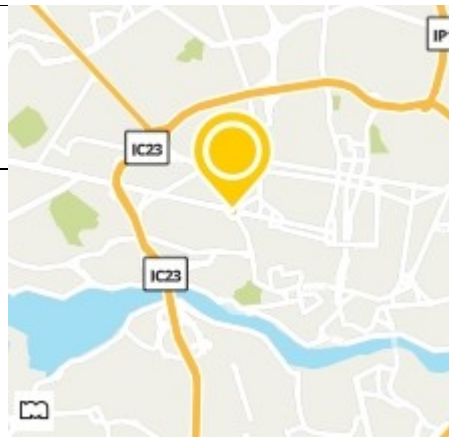


05-Dec-2025 14:23

Local media reports that Portugal's national trade unions have scheduled a general strike in Lisbon for 11 December. Disruption is likely across transport networks, public administration, education, healthcare and municipal services. The strike is in protest against the Government's draft revision of the labour code.

UPDATE: HEAVY RAINFALL WARNINGS REMAIN ACTIVE ACROSS NORTHERN REGIONS AMID RECENT PASSAGE OF STORM CLAUDIA





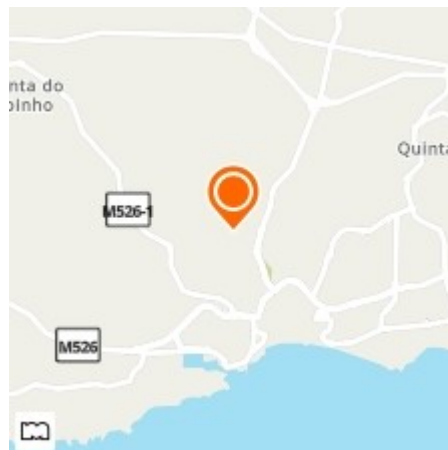
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



16-Nov-2025 09:50

The Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) has issued heavy rainfall warnings for the northern districts of Aveiro, Viseu and Porto, remaining active through 17 November. The alerts follow the passage of Depression Claudia, which has brought persistent adverse weather across the region. The storm also caused significant damage in Albufeira in the south, where one person was killed after a tornado impacted the area. IPMA advises that flooding may occur in low-lying areas of the regions affected. Further information is limited at this time.

UPDATE: OVER 20 CASUALTIES DOCUMENTED FOLLOWING RECENT PASSAGE OF ADVERSE WEATHER IN ALBUFEIRA



RECENT ALERTS

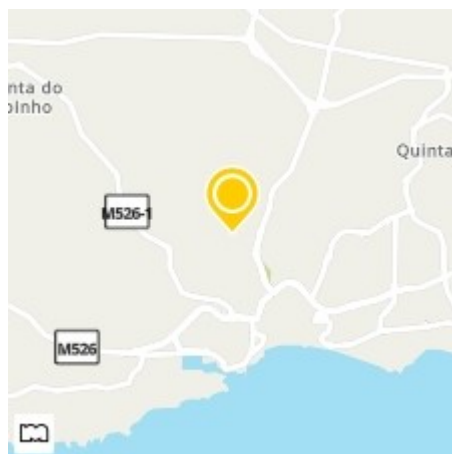
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** High



15-Nov-2025 12:50

Local authorities confirm one fatality and more than 20 minor injuries following severe weather in Albufeira. The Alpouvar area north of the city was the most affected, with strong winds and a tornado damaging the Eden Resort hotel and a nearby campsite at approximately 10:30 local time. Emergency services remain active at the scene and have evacuated damaged properties. Additional information is currently limited.

MULTIPLE INJURED FOLLOWING SUSPECTED TORNADO IN THE ALPOUVAR AREA OF ALBUFEIRA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



15-Nov-2025 12:16

Local authorities report that several people were injured after a suspected tornado struck the Alpouvar area of northern Albufeira at approximately 10:30 local

RECENT ALERTS

time. The incident occurred near the Eden Resort and Camping Albufeira amid severe weather linked to Depression Claudia moving across Western Europe. The number of casualties and the severity of injuries remain unconfirmed. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will update if more information is released.

ORANGE WEATHER ALERTS ISSUED FOR THREE DISTRICTS IN PORTUGAL

RECENT ALERTS



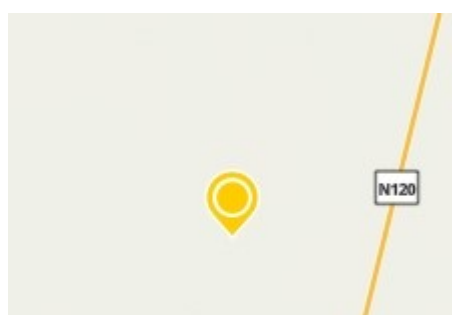
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

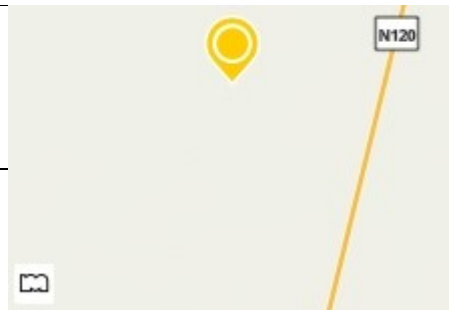


14-Nov-2025 07:54

According to local sources, Faro, Setúbal and Beja will be under orange alert between Friday and Saturday due to heavy rain and thunderstorms associated with Storm Claudia. Faro and Setúbal are forecast to have heavy showers and thunderstorms through Friday morning, with all three districts under orange alert on Saturday for persistent heavy rainfall. All districts in mainland Portugal and Madeira remain under varying yellow alerts for rough seas, wind or precipitation. This follows heavy flooding across the region on 13 November. Further information is limited.

UPDATE: APROXIMATELY 16,000 PEOPLE HAVE LOST POWER DUE TO FLOODING AND HEAVY RAINFALL





Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



13-Nov-2025 12:40

Local reports show that approximately 16,000 people have lost power in the districts of Lisbon, Santarem and Setubal due to flooding and heavy rainfall associated with Storm Claudia. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over the next few hours. Further information is limited.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 13:29:23

Warnings and insurance

This travel advice also covers Madeira, Porto Santo and the Azores.

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about the risks of travel, to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Portugal set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Portuguese Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Portugal follows [Schengen area rules](#). Your passport must:

- have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago
- have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue)

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has either been reported lost or stolen or is damaged.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can [travel without a visa to the Schengen area](#), which includes Portugal, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends

- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The requirements for [working in Portugal](#) are different.

If you're travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day visa-free limit. Visits to Schengen countries in the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at your entry and exit stamps to check you have not overstayed the 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At Portuguese border control you may need to show:

- an onward or return ticket
- proof you have enough money for your visit

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer, you must [meet the Portuguese government's entry requirements](#) (in Portuguese).

If you're in Portugal with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

Read about [entry processes if you live in Portugal](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may

need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Travelling with children

Non-resident children travelling to Portugal

Children aged 17 and under travelling to Portugal alone, or with a person who is not their parent or legal guardian, must either:

- be met at the airport or point of entry by their parent or guardian
- carry a letter of authorisation to travel from their parent or guardian. The

parent/guardian's signature must be certified by a [solicitor](#) or [notary](#).

Make sure the letter includes:

- the child's dates of arrival and departure
- the address where they will be staying
- the name of the adult in Portugal who will be responsible for them during their stay
- the full names, dates of birth, passport numbers and contact details of the parent or guardian
- parent or guardian's signature and date of issue

If you bring a child to Portugal without a properly certified letter of authorisation, your entry will be delayed and may be refused.

Teenagers aged 17 and under who travel alone, or with friends of the same age, and who are not being met, may be refused entry if they do not have a letter of authorisation.

Non-resident children leaving Portugal

Non-resident children aged 17 and under who leave Portugal alone, or with a person who is not their parent or guardian, must have a properly certified letter of authorisation unless they are returning to their country of origin.

Resident children leaving Portugal

A child aged 17 or under who is resident in Portugal must carry a properly certified letter of authorisation if travelling without their parent or legal guardian. See more details in the [Living in Portugal guide](#).

Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see TravelHealthPro's guides for [Portugal](#), [The Azores](#), [Madeira](#) and Porto Santo.

Customs rules

There are [strict rules about goods that can be brought into and taken out of Portugal](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or

duty.

Taking food into Portugal

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in Portugal

Terrorist attacks in Portugal cannot be ruled out.

Political Situation

Political Demonstrations

Demonstrations, political gatherings and marches are not uncommon, particularly in cities. While most demonstrations are peaceful, if you are near areas where they are taking place, you should remain aware of what is happening around you and follow the advice of the police and local authorities.

Strike action

Strike action that causes travel disruption, including at airports, can take place. Strikes can be announced at short notice. For updates on any disruption that may affect your travel plans, check the local news and follow the advice of your travel

provider or tour operator.

Crime

Protecting yourself and your belongings

Crime rates are low but pickpocketing, bag-snatching and theft from holiday properties are common in major tourist areas. Foreign-registered and hire cars are often targeted by thieves. Thieves may use threats or violence. To reduce your personal risk:

- keep sight of your belongings at all times
- beware of thieves using distraction techniques
- avoid carrying all your valuables together in handbags or pockets
- leave spare cash and valuables in a safe place
- avoid leaving items in an unattended car

Public transport

Pickpocketing is a risk. Take care on public transport and at busy stations and crowded bus and tram stops.

Holiday accommodation

Check your holiday accommodation is secure. Lock all doors and windows at night and when you go out.

If you're worried about security at your accommodation, speak to your tour operator or the owner, or contact the:

- [Polícia de Segurança Pública \(PSP\)](#) – the public security police force that covers cities
- [Guarda Nacional Republicana \(GNR\)](#) – the national guard that covers smaller towns and rural areas

Drink spiking, alcohol and sexual assault

Attacks or assault, including sexual assaults, are rare but do occur. The risk is highest late at night around popular nightlife locations. To reduce your personal risk:

- save the location of your accommodation on your maps app, so it's easier to find at the end of the night
- take a photograph of the name and address of your accommodation to help you find it at the end of the night
- set up a group chat to keep in touch with others in your group
- keep an eye on each other's drinks to make sure they do not get spiked
- always use pre-arranged taxis and do not accept lifts from unmarked vehicles or with strangers
- do not let a friend walk back to their hotel alone
- do not give a drunk person more alcohol

Alcohol and drugs can reduce your vigilance, making you less in control. If you drink, know your limit. Drinks served in bars in Portugal are often stronger than those in the UK.

Report anything that does not feel right to local authorities or hotel or club management.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

You must show some form of identification if asked by the police or judicial authorities. Sometimes a copy of the photo page of your passport could be enough, but you may be asked to produce the original document.

Gambling

Gambling is only legal in places licensed by the government, such as official casinos. Games of chance, including bingo, are illegal if they're held on unlicensed premises.

The police may act on reports of illegal gambling in unauthorised premises without warning. You could be arrested, charged and fined or given a prison sentence. If in doubt, ask if the venue is licensed.

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties. You should expect a long

jail sentence and heavy fines for smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport.

Airports in Portugal have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

Local laws governing public behaviour in Albufeira

The municipality of Albufeira has introduced a [Code of Conduct](#) which bans inappropriate behaviour in public places. Check out [the rules](#) that are now in force. If you break the rules, you could be fined on the spot from between 150 and 1800 euros.

The Town Council has placed restrictions on the sale of alcohol from shops and supermarkets in certain parts of Albufeira between 11pm and 8am. For more information on the measures, including the areas affected, see [Albufeira Town Hall's website](#)..

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Beaches and swimming

Every year, people drown in the sea and in swimming pools in Portugal.

Take care when walking close to the water's edge, especially along unsupervised stretches of beaches. Waves can be unpredictable and have a strong undertow.

Do not:

- swim at beaches that connect to or from rivers as they can have strong undercurrents
- swim at any beach without lifeguards
- dive into unknown water as hidden rocks or shallow depths can cause serious injury or death

Beware of rip tides, which can cause drowning. If you are caught in a rip tide, do not try to swim against it. Swim parallel to the coastline until you no longer feel the current, then try to swim towards the shore.

Follow any lifeguard instructions and warning flags:

- red means danger: do not go into the water

- yellow means caution: you can walk in the water, but you cannot swim
- green means it is safe to swim in the water

See [water safety on holiday](#) from the Royal Life Saving Society.

Cliff erosion

Look out for signs warning of cliff erosion. Falling rocks are a hazard, particularly in the Algarve. The authorities can fine people who ignore warning signs.

Hiking in Madeira and the Azores

Hiking in Madeira and the Azores can be challenging. Choose paths that suit your fitness and experience.

Be prepared for narrow, uneven paths and heights. Wear suitable clothing and walking boots. Take extra care if it has rained, as the ground may be slippery and unstable. Check with your tour guide or local organiser that it is safe before you set off.

Leave details of where you are going with your hotel reception and take a phone with you. Reduce the risk by walking with a group or following a guide.

See more information about staying safe, walkway closures and access restrictions on [Visit Madeira](#) and [Visit Azores](#).

Transport risks

Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Portugal, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's Portugal guide](#). The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Portugal. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [correct version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well.

You can bring your own vehicle to Portugal for up to 183 days in any 12-month period. You must not use your vehicle for any other purpose than tourism or loan it to anyone else.

If you want to stay longer, you must apply to the [Portuguese Customs authority](#) to have the car legally imported. You'll be fined if you leave the country without your car.

Check if you need a [UK sticker to drive your car outside the UK](#).

If you are visiting Portugal, you may be able to use your [Blue Badge](#) in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.

Check [how long you can use your UK licence if you live in Portugal](#).

Tolls

Make sure you understand [the toll system](#) in Portugal and how to pay toll charges. If you think you may have used a toll road without paying, check the [Toll Payment Portal](#).

Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

Wildfires

There is an increased risk of wildfires from April to October when the weather is hot and dry. Wildfires can start anywhere in Portugal.

Wildfires are highly dangerous and unpredictable. The Portuguese authorities may evacuate areas and close roads for safety reasons. You should:

- check the [fire risk index](#) for your location (in Portuguese)
- familiarise yourself with [local safety and emergency procedures](#)
- follow the advice of the Portuguese authorities
- call the emergency services on 112 if you see a fire

Starting a fire, even if it is by accident, is illegal and you could get a fine or a prison sentence.

For information about active wildfires and forecasts, visit the Portuguese Met Office website for information on [Portugal](#) and [Madeira](#).

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are a risk in Portugal. For more information, see the [Portuguese Met Office](#) (for mainland Portugal) or the [Earthquake Information and Surveillance Centre](#) (for the Azores).

The US Federal Emergency Management Agency website has advice about [what to do before, during and after an earthquake](#).

Extreme weather warnings

For severe weather warnings, go to the [European Meteorological Services website](#).

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Dial 112 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

If you're feeling unwell, but it's not an emergency, call:

- Mainland Portugal: (+351) 808 24 24 24, press 9 for English. If you have hearing loss and cannot hear on the phone, you can make contact by [videocall or webchat](#) (Portuguese language website).
- Madeira and Porto Santo: (+351) 800 24 24 20
- Azores: (+351) 808 24 60 24

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine information for Portugal](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Portugal](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

UK prescriptions are not recognised in Portugal. Carry enough medication for your visit.

If you need a repeat prescription, go to the nearest health centre or hospital A&E. You may have to pay for your medication.

You will need to go to a pharmacy to get most medicines, though some non-prescription medication is sold at health stores in supermarkets and shopping centres. Find a pharmacy on the [Pharmacy Association website](#).

Healthcare in Portugal

FCDO has a [list of medical providers in Portugal](#), where some staff will speak English.

Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in Portugal, you need a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time

- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare
- private clinics

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Portugal](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#) and [mental health support for UK nationals in Portugal](#).

There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in Portugal

Telephone: 112 (ambulance, fire, police)

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from **FCDO**

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Portugal
- dealing with a [death in Portugal](#)
- being [arrested in Portugal](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of rape or sexual assault](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you are [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting **FCDO**

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call **FCDO** in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Portugal](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself.
You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

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