



# Portugal

**Portugal**,<sup>[f]</sup> officially the **Portuguese Republic**,<sup>[g]</sup> is a country in the Iberian Peninsula in Southwestern Europe. Featuring the westernmost point in continental Europe, Portugal borders Spain to its north and east, with which it shares the longest uninterrupted border in the European Union; to the south and the west is the North Atlantic Ocean; and to the west and southwest lie the Macaronesian archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira, which are the two autonomous regions of Portugal. Lisbon is the capital and largest city, followed by Porto, which is the only other metropolitan area.

The western part of the Iberian Peninsula has been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times, with the earliest signs of settlement dating to 5500 BC.<sup>[15]</sup> Celtic and Iberian peoples arrived in the first millennium BC. The region came under Roman control in the second century BC, followed by a succession of Germanic peoples and the Alans from the fifth to eighth centuries AD. Muslims invaded mainland Portugal in the eighth century, but were gradually expelled by the Christian *Reconquista* culminating with the capture of the Algarve, between 1238 and 1249 AD.<sup>[16][17]</sup> Modern Portugal began taking shape during this period, initially as a county of the Christian Kingdom of León in 868 and recognized unequivocally as a kingdom with *Manifestis Probatum* in 1179.<sup>[18]</sup>

As one of the earliest participants in the Age of Discovery, Portugal made several advancements in nautical science, the discovery of the *volta do mar*, which unlocked safe round-trip voyages enabling deep-sea travel, stands out as a major turning point in world's history.<sup>[h]</sup> It settled Madeira and the Azores, and established itself as a major economic and political power, largely through a maritime empire that extended mostly along the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean coasts.<sup>[20]</sup> The Portuguese were among the first Europeans to explore and discover new

## Portuguese Republic

*República Portuguesa* (Portuguese)  
*República Pertuesa* (Mirandese)



Flag

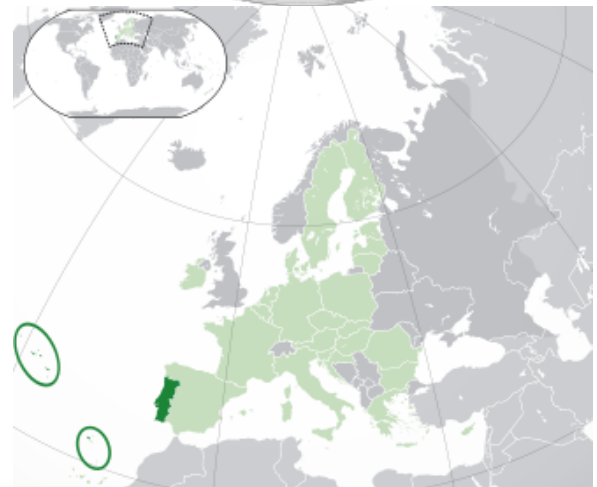


Coat of arms

### Anthem:

*A Portuguesa*  
"The Portuguese"

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 — 🔊 ⋮



Location of Portugal (dark green)