



# MOVING TO PORTUGAL GUIDE

Your guide to buying  
and living overseas

LUMON

# SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO BUY A PROPERTY IN PORTUGAL.

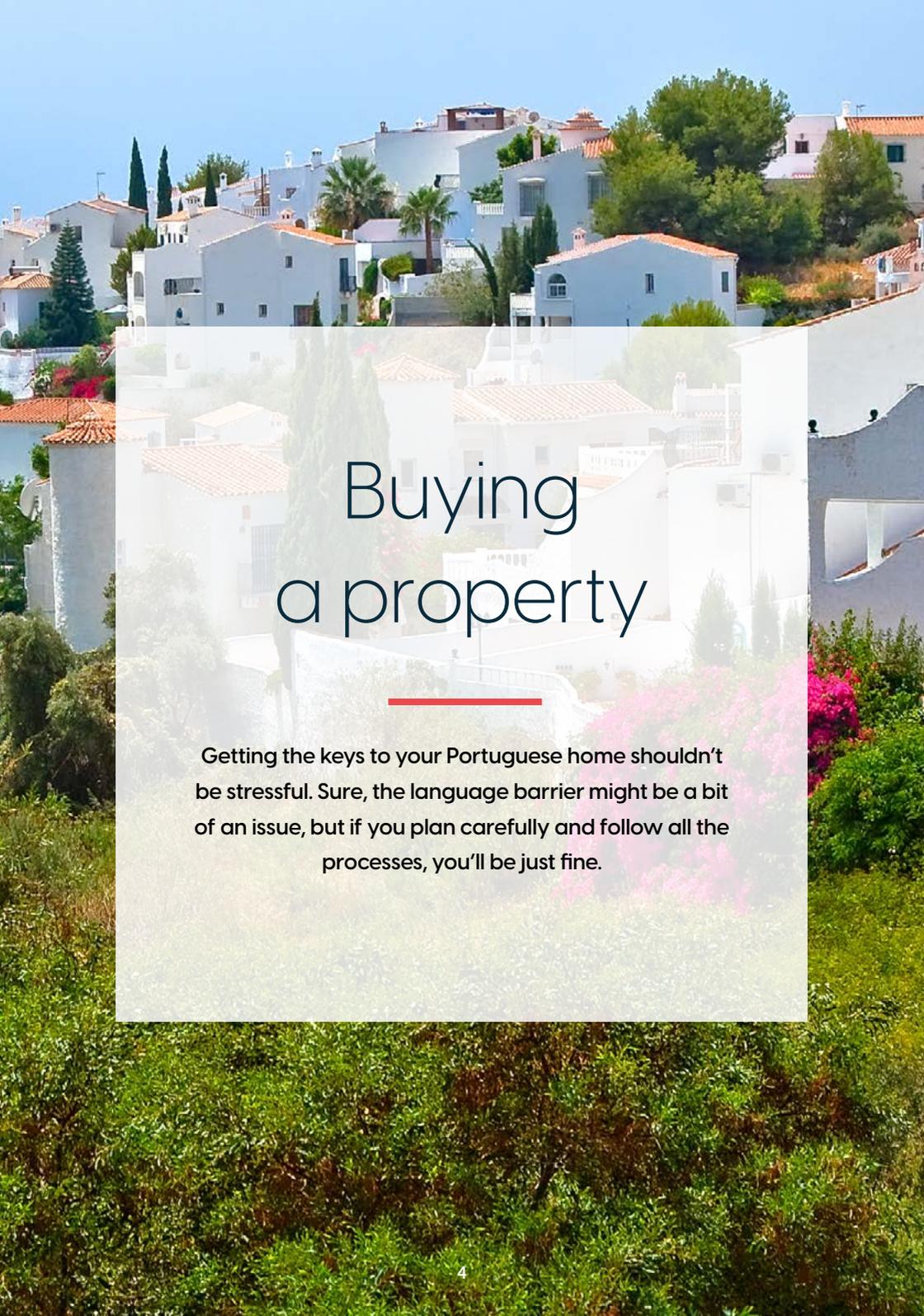
## PARABÉNS.

Perhaps you're already picturing yourself there with a pastel de nata or a glass of something sparkling. But before that, there's a fair bit to think about and even more to do. Which is where our definitive guide comes in handy.

You'll find everything you need to know and do to enjoy life in Portugal: the processes and costs involved in buying property, what visas you'll need, paying tax, what to do about healthcare, and even bringing your family pets with you. All to help everything go as smoothly as possible.

And of course, whether you're paying for your property or moving money over to pay for your new life, we can help save on your currency exchange.





# Buying a property

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Getting the keys to your Portuguese home shouldn't be stressful. Sure, the language barrier might be a bit of an issue, but if you plan carefully and follow all the processes, you'll be just fine.



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## Buying a house in Portugal isn't that different to how we do it in the UK.

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### HOUSE-HUNTING MADE EASIER

First things first, where do you want to move to?

Whether you've been there on holiday, or it's virgin territory, always do your research. How far is the city centre? What are the local transport links like? Do you want to live in a busy area or somewhere a bit more off the grid?

Make a list of everything that's important to you, set a reasonable (and realistic) budget and start looking online. There are plenty of property sites showcasing houses all over the country. After all, popping out for a quick viewing isn't really an option.



But who buys without looking? So once you've put together a shortlist (or you've found The One), it's time for a viewing – more on that later.

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**When you visit, bear in mind the time of year you're visiting. What looks good in the summer might not be so fit for winter.**

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## **FINDING AN ESTATE AGENT**

Before you head off on your viewing trip, take the time to find the right estate agent.

Estate agents are heavily regulated in Portugal. They need to be professionally trained, registered with the Government and have an official AMI (Associação de Mediadores Imobiliários) licence number displayed on their premises. If you need to check out credentials, you can contact the Instituto da Construção e do Imobiliário online. As you're an overseas buyer, you may want somebody who's also a member of an international body.

If you're looking to buy somewhere popular with British expats, your estate agent will more than likely be used to dealing with Brits and speak fluent English. However, if you're heading into more rural areas, an interpreter may be a good idea if you're not fluent in Portuguese.

To get a better idea of whether an estate agent is right for you, make time for emails or phone chats. Ask if they:

- **Understand the types of properties you're looking for**
- **Know the area well**
- **Sell many properties in the area**
- **Deal regularly with British people buying property in Portugal.**

### **TAKING A VIEWING TRIP**

Before you book your flights, check public holidays. You don't want to turn up, only to find nothing is open. Book ahead of time with your estate agent, as they may be incredibly busy during high season.

When you're viewing, take lots of pictures, and ask lots of questions. If you're viewing lots of properties, this can help to distinguish your favourites and be a good reference point for your discussions back home.

Give yourself enough time to experience the day-to-day life and immerse yourself in the culture to get a feel for what it's really like to live there. Doing everyday activities like going shopping will give you an idea of how close the local amenities are, as well as the cost of living.

Remember, there is no right way to do a viewing trip, so do what works for you. Some people rent before they buy, others take multiple viewing trips.

### **APPOINTING A SOLICITOR**

The property buying process in Portugal can be pretty quick, so we'd recommend having a solicitor in place before you go house hunting. Your estate agent may have some suggestions for local solicitors.

Business dealings in Portugal can be surprisingly casual, and billing for services can also take a bit of time too. Make sure you agree costs up front and in writing from the solicitor to avoid vagueness on what it is you're spending your money on.

### **YOU'LL NEED A NOTARY**

As Government employees, Notaries represents the state during a transaction – they don't work for you or the seller. They oversee the paperwork, transaction, taxes and register the property. All documents must be signed in the presence of a Notary from the Promissory Contract to Completion in order to be legally binding.

## FACTOR IN FEES

Estate agents in Portugal work on behalf of the seller on a commission basis, so it's the seller who pays. This is sometimes added onto the value of the property price to cover the costs, so check before making an offer.

But, just like the UK, there are still fees for the buyer. Keep these in mind when planning your budget:

- **Lawyer and Notary fees – 1-3% of the purchase price**
- **Land Registry Fees – Can fluctuate based on legal necessity but anything up to €600**
- **Transfer Tax (known as IMT, which stands for Imposto Municipal sobre as Transmissões Onerosas de Imóveis – Anything up to 6% of the tax value of the property**
- **Stamp Duty – 0.4-0.6% of purchase price: This is a flat rate of 0.8% of the purchase price**

## THREE STEPS TO PORTUGUESE PROPERTY BUYING

One of the best things about buying a property in Portugal is there's a set procedure that's simple to follow.

### 1. Make an offer

Once it's accepted, an Offer and Reservation form will need signing, along with a refundable holding deposit of around €6,000 to take the property off the market.

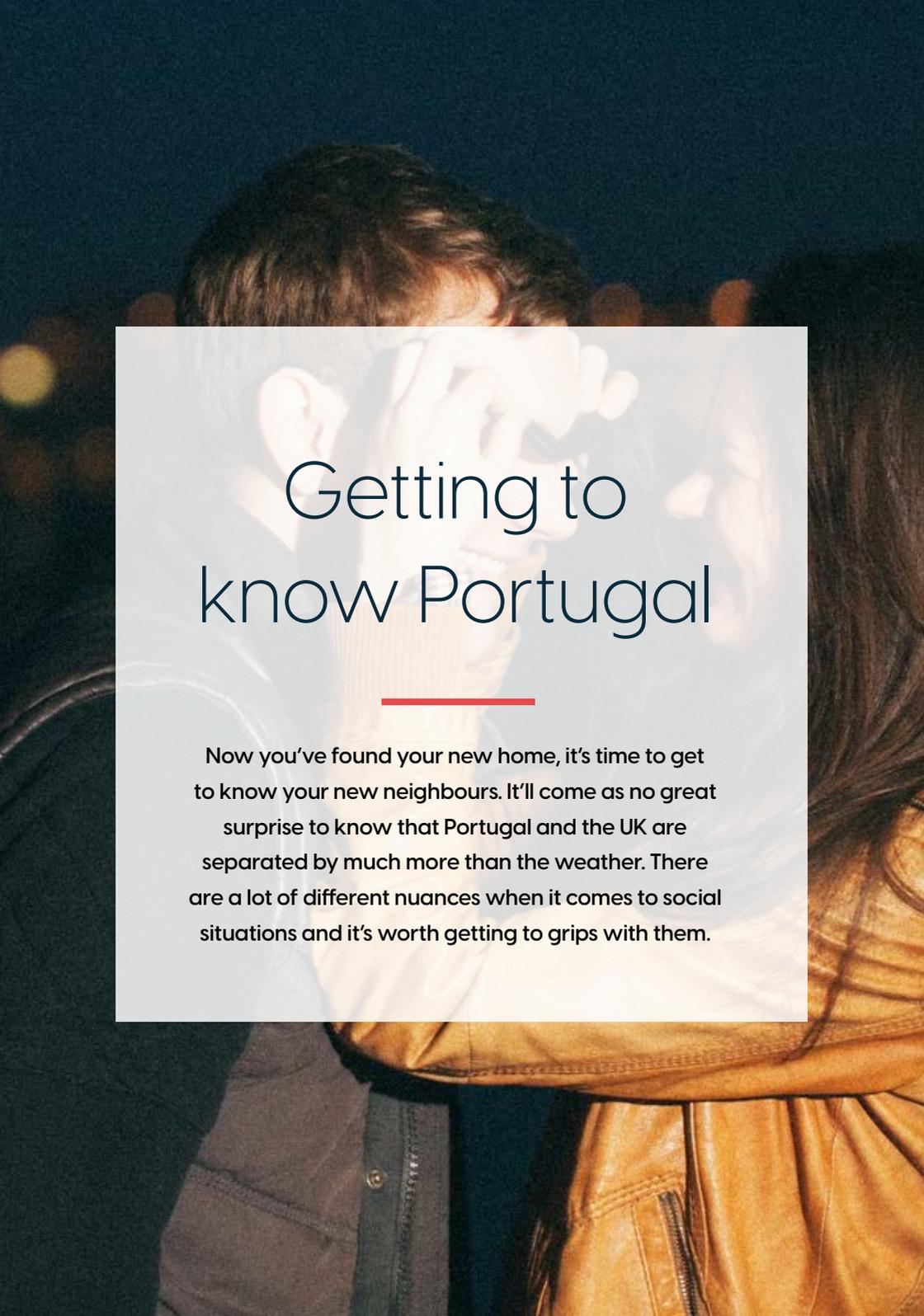
### 2. Sign the Promissory Contract (Contrato de Promessa de Compra e Venda)

This is a legally binding document designed to protect the seller and the buyer. Once it's signed and the deposit is made, the seller is required to pay back double the deposit amount. If the buyer pulls out, they lose their deposit. So, make sure you are certain.

### 3. Sign the Completion and Public Deed (Escritura)

Agree a time and date for completion. Once you've completed, a Public Deed (Escritura) will be signed in front of the Notary. The transaction is now considered lawful and you will proceed to register the property with the Land Registry.

Then it's time to sit back, relax and soak up the sun in your new home.

A photograph of a man and a woman embracing at night. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket, and the woman is on the right, wearing a brown leather jacket. They are both smiling and looking towards each other. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

# Getting to know Portugal

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Now you've found your new home, it's time to get to know your new neighbours. It'll come as no great surprise to know that Portugal and the UK are separated by much more than the weather. There are a lot of different nuances when it comes to social situations and it's worth getting to grips with them.

## **GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS**

First impressions are everything. So, let's start with greetings. Shake hands, and keep eye contact. It may seem like a no brainer, but it is very important to do this with everyone – men, women, older children and young adults.

As you get to know people better, men tend to shake hands or hug with a pat on the back; women usually go for a kiss on each cheek, starting with the right-hand side. It gets slightly more complex as you start making close friends, and the number of kisses can vary.

## **LEARNING THE LANGUAGE**

When first living in Portugal, there is every chance you'll want to try and pick up the language. Most people, especially in the Algarve, will speak some English and be happy to help. But like many countries, making an effort to try and speak the language is always appreciated.

It's customary to say good morning (bom dia), good afternoon/evening (boa tarde) and good night (boa noite). If you really struggle, the simple phrase "Fala Ingles?" should get you talking to someone who can help you.

## **WATCH YOUR HANDS**

The Portuguese are not overly expressive with gestures, so don't overdo the waving or pointing. At best it's thought of as over the top; at worst, rude. This is certainly more difficult for some than it is for others, so if you know that you may struggle to contain your enthusiasm to throw your arms around, get a friend or significant other to keep an eye on you when first starting out.

## **EATING AND SOCIALISING**

When it comes to table manners, don't unfold and use your napkin. Leave it on the left-hand side of your plate when eating and move it to the right when you're finished. Also, never clear your plate and resist the urge to tuck in to other people's leftovers.

If you're invited to a Portuguese family home for dinner, bring chocolate or flowers as opposed to wine, unless the host has specified. Avoid handing over thirteen flowers (or red ones) as it's bad luck in Portugal. If you receive a gift in a social situation or business, open it on the spot. Taking it with you unopened will be seen as rude.

Due to the warm Portuguese weather, evening events inevitably start later. Meals and concerts start at around eight or nine pm, so you may have to get used to rejigging your body clock when you first move.

## TO TIP OR NOT TO TIP?

After finishing any meal or drinks, it's customary to tip. The standard amount is very similar to the UK at around 10-15% at your own discretion. Service charges aren't usually included in the bill.

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**Queues are virtually non-existent which is quite possibly one of the hardest things to acclimatise yourself to.**

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## TAKE CARE ON THE BEACH

The good weather comes with a warning. Slowly build up to the heavy sunbathing and protect yourself from the harshest rays of the day.

Always wear sun cream and a hat at the beach. Don't be surprised to see nude and topless bathers. The Portuguese have a very relaxed attitude to nude bathing so any staring or pointing will be frowned upon by locals.



# Laws, visas & permits

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Every country has its own residency laws, some strict, some relaxed. Pay particular attention to any changes since the UK left the EU.

## VISAS EXPLAINED

If you plan to spend more than 90 days out of every chunk of 180 in Portugal, you will need to get a visa. Note that the 90 days relates to any country in Europe, not just Portugal. Violation of these timescales can lead to fines and deportation. Repeat offenders could even find themselves being banned from the country.

However, getting a visa is no big deal if you give yourself plenty of time to submit the application and get your paperwork back. To apply, visit the Portuguese Consulate online, and arrange an appointment. Make sure all members of your family are included. Appointments usually come through within two weeks.

The tourism/visitor visa costs around £70 (half for children, under-sixes free). Applications for a long-stay residence of over one year cost £82.

## PERMANENT RESIDENCE

If you're looking to get an initial resident permit – or 'Autorização de Residência' – you'll need to show you have enough funds to support yourself in Portugal. If you intend moving there full-time, after five years, you can get permanent residence via a Certificado de Residência Permanente.



# Money & finance

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While there are similarities between Portugal and the UK, there's a fair bit to learn about Portuguese taxes. Especially if you're planning on starting your own business.

## **BANKING IN PORTUGAL**

The Banco de Portugal is the Central Bank in Portugal, monitoring the stability of the country's financial system, just like the Bank of England. The 20 or so biggest banks, including some international ones, all belong to the Associacao Portuguesa de Bancos (Portuguese Banking Association), which sets the rules.

The largest banks networked with the Multibanco system, so you can share ATMs for cash withdrawals, transfers and even making tax or social security payments.

The equivalent of the big UK High Street banks includes Banco BIC, Banif, Novobanco, Millenium BCP, Banco Santander Totta and Caixa Geral de Depositos.

Registering is relatively straightforward. And if you want an even simpler – but definitely not cheaper – option, you could even go with an international bank like Barclays or Citibank.

## **MOVING PERMANENTLY? BANK LOCALLY**

To open a bank account in Portugal you need to have the following:

- **Photo ID such as a passport as well as your residency card**
- **Proof of address such as something like a utility bill**
- **Your tax number and card**

Some banks require your Numero de Identificacao Fiscal or NIF tax ID number.

One thing to remember. You'll be funding your account from home initially, but also likely moving money between Portugal and the UK regularly. When sending money to Portugal, you will be subject to currency fluctuations, so make sure you speak to someone like Lumon who can typically save you money compared to using the High Street banks.

## **BANKING SERVICES**

From current accounts to business accounts, loans to mortgages, you get the same sort of products and services that you'd find in the UK. All the major banks offer online banking. Some banks offer bespoke accounts for non-residents. Perfect if you're visiting a holiday home regularly instead of making the permanent move to Portugal.

Open an account and you'll get a Multibanco card that you'll use as a debit card. You can apply for a credit card option too if you want. There are 12,500 free-to-use Multibanco ATMs with a daily €400 withdrawal limit. If you're using an international bank, there'll probably be a fee. You can also use the cards instore, online or over the telephone.

If you're in Portugal and need to make a payment using your international credit or debit card, be aware this usually comes with a fee. It's worth checking with your card supplier before you travel.

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**Standard bank opening times are 8.30am-3pm (some remain open until 4pm on a Friday). A few banks open on Saturday mornings.**

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## **OVERSEAS PAYMENTS.**

You can use banks for your overseas payments, but there are some drawbacks. The exchange rates they offer vary for commercial customers and private individuals. A standard currency transfer can take 4-6 working days, and there may be an extra cost for an express transfer.

Companies like Lumon excel in both of these categories. When it comes to rates, the difference of 1 cent in the GBP/EUR exchange rate can save hundreds, if not thousands of Pounds, especially on a large transfer. Meanwhile, Account Managers can make sure money is in the recipient's bank account the same or following day.

If you are buying a property before you have moved out to Portugal or want to save yourself some time making the transfer from your own account, you can arrange for someone like us to send the funds directly to your solicitor. It's worth speaking to your estate agent and solicitor beforehand to find out the best way of avoiding fees for receiving the funds. Check with your Account Manager that they will provide a proof of transfer once the payment has been sent for peace of mind.



# Tax in Portugal

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The Portuguese tax system is pretty favourable to expat residents and employees. Before moving, you'll need to be aware of how it operates and how it'll affect any decisions you make about residency.

## TAX RESIDENCY

The first stage in understanding the Portuguese tax system is to know if you'll be a resident for tax purposes. Fortunately, the rules for tax residency are quite straightforward.

If you have a visa to spend more than 180 days a year in Portugal, all your income including State and private pensions or property rental in the UK will be subject to Portuguese income tax, not UK tax.

## INCOME TAX

Portuguese tax residents get taxed on personal income from worldwide earnings (including in Portugal). They must submit a self-assessment every year to calculate how much they owe. Married couples are required to file a joint tax return.

Income tax in Portugal applies to the following categories of income:

- **Income earned from employment**
- **Income from your business or self-employment**
- **Investment income (including interest)**
- **Income from rental properties**
- **Capital gains**
- **Pension income**

As with the UK, there are expenses you can deduct from your income to give a net taxable income for the year. Acceptable expenses vary, so it's probably a good idea to get someone familiar with the Portuguese tax system to guide you through it all.

Unlike the UK, there's no tax-free allowance, and most people could expect to pay a tax rate anywhere between 14.5% (under €7,091) to 48% (over €80,640) on income earned.

Fortunately, UK citizens benefit from the 'Non-Habitual Resident' program. This scheme means you're taxed a flat rate of 20% on all income earned in Portugal while income earned in the UK will be exempt from taxation.

## PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

When you buy property in Portugal, it's subject to the 'Imposto Municipal sobre Transmissões Onerosas de Imóveis' (Property Transfer Tax), more commonly referred to as 'IMT'.

A tax due on the transfer of property rights, IMT is based on the declared value of sale. This works on a sliding scale up to a maximum of 8%, and you can pay at any local tax office. You'll need to pay the tax before completing the purchase, as the IMT certificate will need to be provided to the Notary who signs the deed confirming sale of the property.

In addition to IMT, you'll also need to pay Stamp Duty ('Imposto de Selo'). Calculated on the same basis as IMT, Stamp Duty amounts to 0.8% of the property value.

## MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX - IMI

Residential property owner? You'll be paying the Portuguese equivalent to Council Tax, the Municipal Property Tax, or 'Imposto de Municipal sobre Imoveis' (IMI).

Raised and spent by local authorities (Town Halls) this tax applies whether you live in the property or not. As with IMT and Stamp Duty, the amount payable is based on the declared value of the property when it's assessed.

This tax can vary according to few things. It is based on the value of the property declared on Caderneta

Predial, which is usually considerably less than the selling price of the property. For example, on the Title Certificate or Caderneta predial the value of a property could be is €150,000 but the buyer could end up paying €200,000 for their property. The value of €150,000 would be used to calculate the IMI.

The IMI can go from 0.3% up to 0.8% depending on the location. For example in Faro the tax is 0.4%. But in Albufeira it's 0.3% for urban properties and 0.8% for rural ones. You'll find the latest rates on the [financas website](#).

## ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX - AIMI

This additional tax applies if your property is worth more than €600,000 and depends on the price band:

Value	Additional Municipal Property Tax %
€600,000 to €1,000,000	0.7%
€1m to €2m	1%
€2m +	1.5%

If the property is under a holding name, then the AIMI goes down to 0.4%. If the property is above the €600,000 you'll pay IMI plus AIMI. Your marital status also affects these calculations.

## TAX PENALTIES

Whatever the reason, failure to submit your tax return and payments on time can prove costly. Forgot to file your tax return? A penalty will be applied to your tax account, ranging from €200 to €2,500. Late payment penalties range from 10% to 200% of the total owed, up to a maximum of €55,000. So, it's best to pop it on the calendar well in advance.

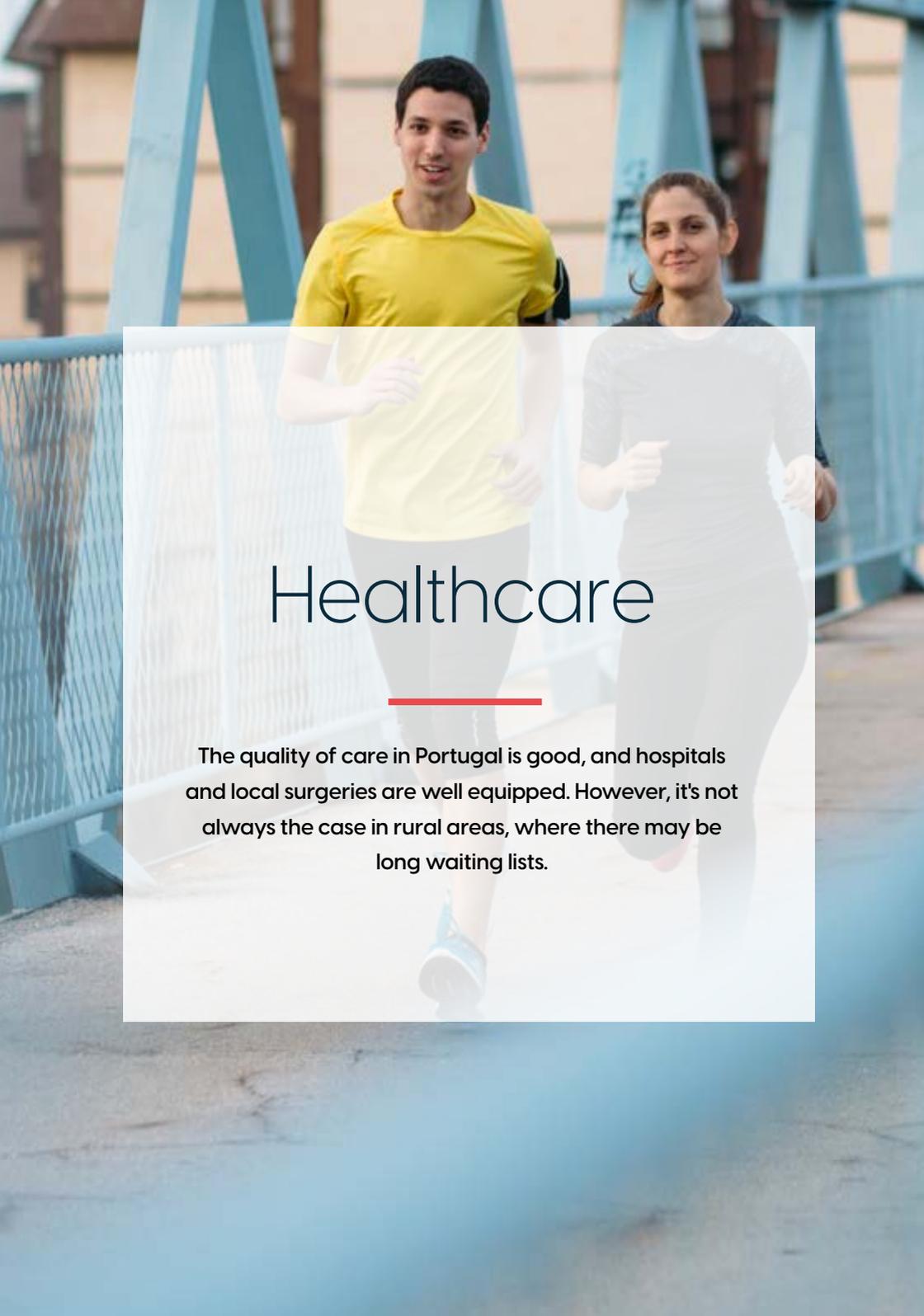
## INHERITANCE TAX

Portugal has one of the most favourable inheritance tax systems in Europe - set at just 10% and only applying to your Portuguese assets.

Keeping your UK residency alongside Portuguese residency means you'll still have to pay UK inheritance tax. Moreover, unlike Portugal, the UK taxes your estate based on worldwide assets.

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **You'll need to register as a taxpayer in Portugal before receiving any form of income. You'll need to complete the 'fiche de inscrição' form and submit it to the local tax office.**
- **Once you've submitted your form, you'll receive your tax number, or 'Número de Identificação Fiscal' , which you'll need before you can complete any significant financial transaction.**
- **Take ID with you when registering for tax: your identity or residency card, driver's licence or passport will be required to prove your identity.**
- **You'll need an address so you can confirm that you're living in a property in Portugal, or you'll need proof of your non-Portuguese address.**
- **The tax year in Portugal runs 1 January to 31 December.**
- **Portugal has both state and local taxes which, similar to the UK, are based on income, property ownership and property transfer.**
- **Income tax isn't automatically worked out and deducted from your wages as it is in the UK. Even paid employees must submit tax returns by March 15th (paper returns) or April 30th (online).**

A man in a yellow t-shirt and a woman in a dark blue long-sleeved shirt are jogging on a bridge with blue railings. The background shows a building with a brown facade and blue structural elements.

# Healthcare

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The quality of care in Portugal is good, and hospitals and local surgeries are well equipped. However, it's not always the case in rural areas, where there may be long waiting lists.

## STATE HEALTHCARE

The Serviço Nacional de Saúde is the Portuguese equivalent of the NHS, although not everything is free. Visitors from Britain must show their European Health Insurance Card or a UK Global Health Insurance Card to get treatment.

If you've got your resident permit, you'll enjoy almost-free access to healthcare. First, register with a GP at a local state-run health centre. If you're of a pensionable age, you also need an SI form.

## WHAT MIGHT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR?

Visits to the doctor might cost a couple of euros, while tests, X-rays and scans will cost a few euros more. You'll also have to pay for a trip in an ambulance if you are unlucky enough to need one.

## PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Because there's a small charge for public services anyway, and because private health insurance is relatively cheap, many British expats living in Portugal choose to pay for private health insurance. Together with peace of mind, private insurance gives you the choice of public or private hospitals or GP visits.

To give you an idea of the convenience and cost, it might set you back €40 to see a private doctor immediately, rather than wait to see a public one which will cost a few euros anyway.

Taking out health insurance might mean you only pay €10 or €20 to see the private doctor. The rest is paid up by the policy.

You can pay for anything privately if you want. For instance, while childbirth is covered by the public health system with a small charge, it's quite an old-fashioned experience. British parents looking for a more modern birthing plan might prefer the private route, which can cost in the region of €4,000.

With services sometimes underfunded and busy, some people prefer to take out private health insurance for extra services like dental care and vision too.

Private health insurance can run from the low hundreds to thousands of euros a year depending on your age and health history. Most schemes also come with an excess payment policy, so you'll have to pay a small fee before making a claim. You can add dependents on to your private health care policy, just like in the UK.

## HEALTHCARE FOR THE FAMILY

If you're buying property in Portugal and taking the família with you, everyone will be entitled to public health care. They just need to have a residence certificate to register at the local health centre.

Adults need a NISS, or social security number to show alongside a residence certificate at the health centre. You won't be given a NISS number unless you're working, or dependent upon someone who is.

That means that the head of the household should be working in Portugal to receive public healthcare benefits. If you are retired, there's one more form-filling hoop to jump through; an S1 form from the Department of Works and Pensions' International Pensions Centre.

If you're employed, your employer will register you in the social security system in Portugal. If you're self-employed, you'll need to register with the Social Security Institute directly before applying for health insurance.

## HOW DOES THE HEALTH SYSTEM WORK?

It's similar to the UK in that you must get a referral from a local GP before being admitted to hospital for treatment.

Emergencies are the exception. Dial the emergency services on 112. Operators are generally able to understand English, as indeed are most Portuguese GPs.

If you've got a minor ailment, you'll get many medicines over the counter at the local pharmacy (farmacia de service), which have a green cross sign outside. Some medicines require a prescription from your GP and you'll be expected to contribute towards the cost.

## DIFFERENT TIERS OF HOSPITALS

There are around 200 hospitals in Portugal, half of which are private. These include:

- **Central hospitals in the big towns and cities with specialised, hi-tech services.**
- **Specialised hospitals with a broad range of services**
- **District level hospitals. The same as those in major UK towns and with a range of specialist services.**
- **District level 1 hospitals with some surgical procedures and perhaps a couple of basic specialities.**

A nighttime photograph of a city street. In the background, a grand, ornate building with classical architectural details is illuminated. The street is filled with cars, including a prominent yellow taxi in the foreground with its headlights on. The scene is lit by streetlights and car headlights, creating a bokeh effect and reflecting on the wet pavement.

# Driving in Portugal

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You won't be faced with many huge surprises on Portuguese roads, but there are a few differences you'll need to be aware of before you head out for a drive.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS AND DOCUMENTS

In Portugal, just like the UK, you're expected to have your licence and papers in your car at all times, along with a few other things.

Get a Green Card while you're still in the UK. This is proof of your insurance. You may also need extra insurance if you're just visiting. If you're going to live in Portugal, you'll be better off getting Portuguese insurance.

Your UK photocard driving licence is valid. If you only have a paper licence or one issued in Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man, you'll need an International Driving Permit. You can apply for a Portuguese licence with your permanent residency.

You'll also need your vehicle registration document and MOT certificate.

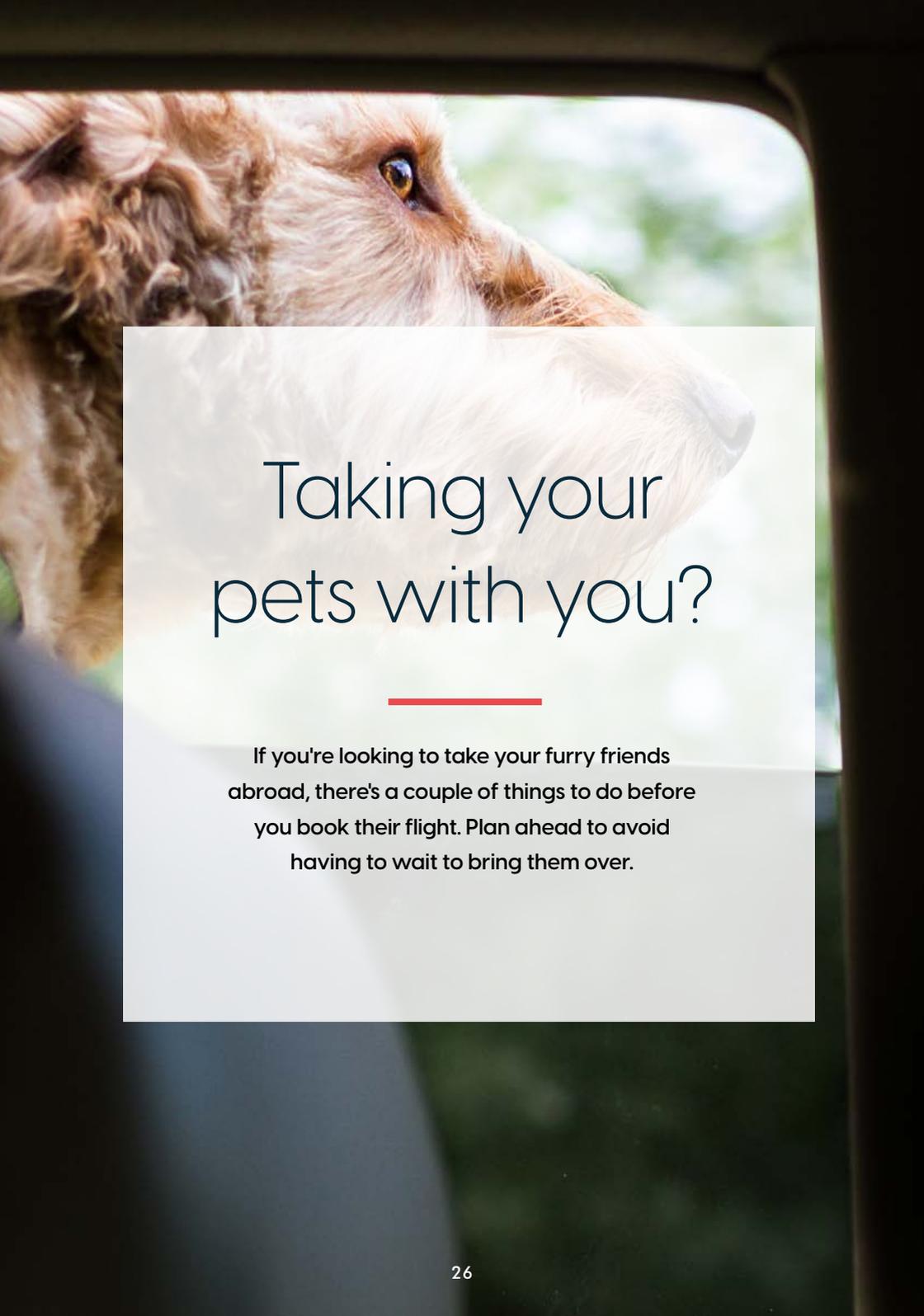
## RULES OF THE ROAD

It's a legal requirement for the driver and all passengers in a car to wear their seatbelt. You drive on the right-hand side and it's against the law to use a mobile phone whilst driving unless using handsfree

Generally, speed limits are as follows:

- **120 kph (75 mph) on motorways**
- **90 kph (56 mph) on rural roads**
- **50 kph (32 mph) in built up areas**

Toll roads in Portugal vary in price. You can pay with a pre-paid card for a fixed fee which is valid until your credit runs out, or a fixed fee ticket which is valid for three days. Alternatively link your bank account to an app which debits the money straight from your account when you go through.



# Taking your pets with you?

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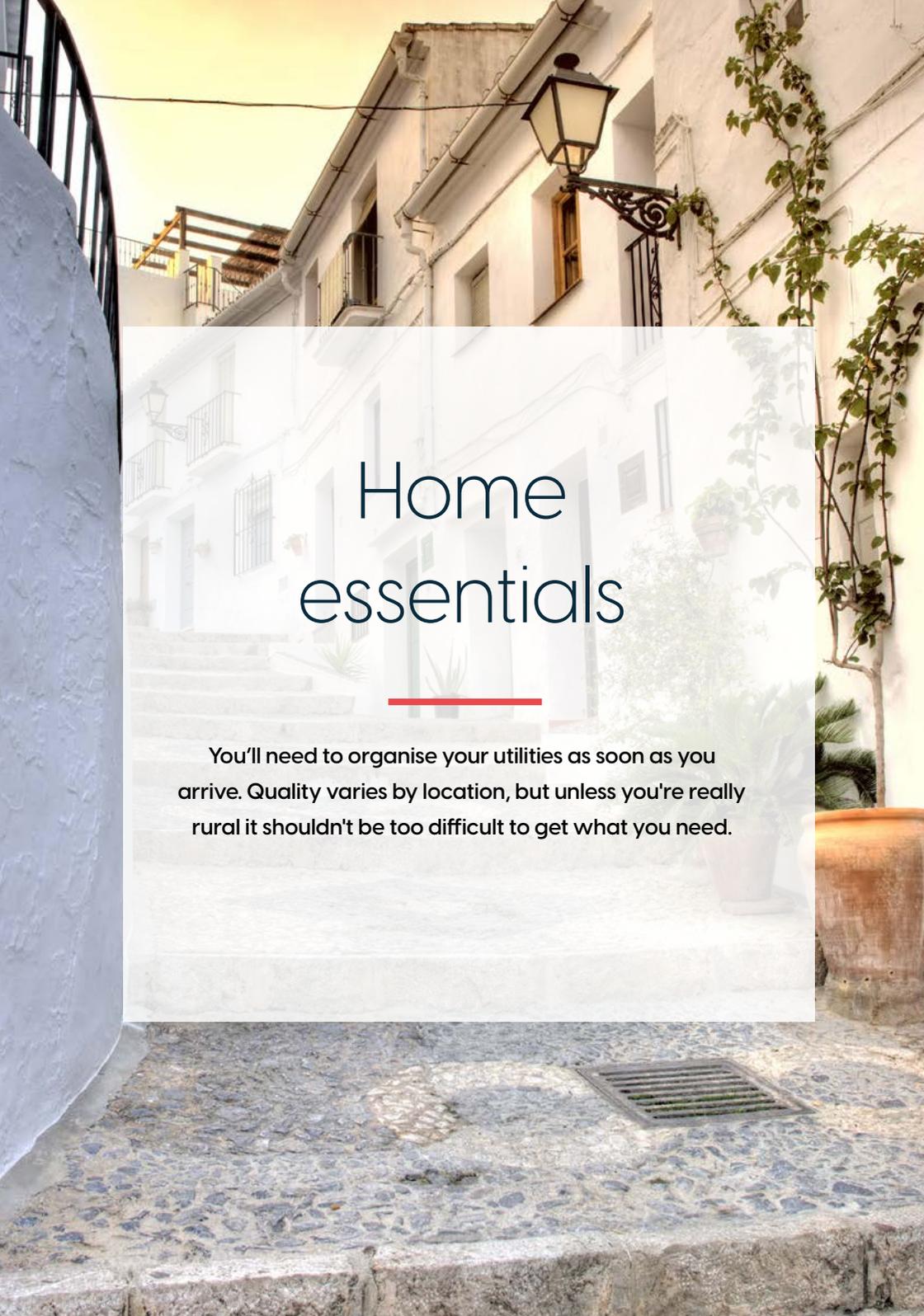
If you're looking to take your furry friends abroad, there's a couple of things to do before you book their flight. Plan ahead to avoid having to wait to bring them over.

## PET PAPERWORK

Since the UK left the EU, pet passports are no longer valid. Instead, you'll need an animal health certificate (AHC) from your vet. Before an AHC can be issued, you must take these steps:

- **Your dog, cat (or ferret) must be microchipped**
- **They must be vaccinated against rabies (it must be 12 weeks old before getting a vaccination)**
- **You must wait 21 days after the vaccination before travelling**

The AHC is valid for ten days after issue. If your pet is travelling more than five days before or after you, it will need an export health certificate (EHC) rather than an AHC, although the process is much the same.



# Home essentials

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You'll need to organise your utilities as soon as you arrive. Quality varies by location, but unless you're really rural it shouldn't be too difficult to get what you need.



## **GAS & ELECTRIC**

Portugal has an open market approach to gas and electric, so you're free to choose your supplier.

When transferring the gas and electric to your name, you'll need to provide meter readings as well your tax number and proof of residency.

Bills are paid via monthly direct debit, or a paper bill, and based on estimates for 11 months of the year. In month 12, your bill is based on an actual reading and payments adjusted as needed. Some companies will let you to submit your meter readings for more accurate bills.

## **WATER**

This is nationalised, so you'll need to apply to take over the supply at your municipal council office or directly to the local water board. Water usage is metered, and most people just set up a monthly debit and pay in full.

## **BROADBAND, TELEPHONE & TV**

Like the UK, many companies bundle services together, and it's simply a matter of shopping around to find the best deals. The network itself is maintained independently of these companies by Portugal Telecom (PT). It's them you'll need to contact if you need a new line installed. Like the other utilities, payments are via direct debit or a paper bill.

A top-down view of various photography and travel-related items. A black camera with a lens is the central focus, resting on a brown leather bag. An orange string with a red button is tied around the camera. Below the camera, a white ruler is visible. In the foreground, there's a white notebook with a pencil, and several instant photos showing people and landscapes. The background is a light-colored surface.

# Moving to Portugal checklist

You'll need to organise your utilities as soon as you arrive. Quality varies by location, but unless you're really rural it shouldn't be too difficult to get what you need.

## MOVING TO PORTUGAL CHECKLIST

To help you get everything in order, we've put together a checklist of some of the more important tasks you'll need to consider when moving abroad.

### TELL THE TAX AND PENSION PEOPLE

You'll need to let HMRC know you're leaving. Fortunately, you may only need to complete one form (the P85), submitted online or via the post.

If you're retired or close to retiring, you'll need to contact the International Pension Centre and post the relevant form to them. Sadly, there isn't yet an online option for this particular part of the process.

If you, or anyone who's leaving permanently with you, receive state benefits then you'll also need to get in touch with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) so they can make changes to those benefits.

### 18 MONTHS

- **Research time**  
Download and read important documents and guides, like this one.
- **Start the property process**  
Plan to put your place on the market. If you're going to keep your UK property and rent it out, talk to a professional letting agent. Then start looking for your new home.
- **Visas**  
Take a look at what you might need, and make sure you're eligible.

- **Medical conditions**

If you have any long-term issues, have a chat with your GP and check your healthcare needs are covered in Portugal.

### 12 MONTHS

- **Passports**  
Make sure you've got at least two years left, to give yourself plenty of leeway.
- **Papers por favor**  
Start putting your paperwork in order. Make sure you've dug out anything that might be useful such as birth and marriage certificates, tax forms, and driving licence papers.
- **Tell your friends and family**  
They'll need to start planning for your departure too.
- **Take a look at your finances**  
Check current accounts, savings and investments. See what you can close, simplify and consolidate. If you have any debts, think about paying them off.

### 6 MONTHS

- **Take a trip to the doctors**  
Not only is it worth getting a check-up for peace of mind, it's also a good time to find out about any vaccinations you and your family may need.
- **Book flights**  
If you're flying to your new home it's a good idea to book your flights. Google Flights is a good option for finding the best deals.

- **Get the moving in motion**  
If you're planning to bring a lot of your possessions with you start looking into how you'll get it all out of the country. You might want to start selling off or packing some less than essential items too.
- **Thinking about working?**  
Start job hunting now. It might also be time to tell your current employer.
- **Set up a currency trading account**  
Talk to someone like Lumon.

## 2 MONTHS

- **Temporary accommodation**  
If you've not got your new home sorted just yet, you'll need to get a temporary living situation sorted out along with somewhere to store your stuff.
- **Throw a party to say adeus**  
If your friends and family haven't planned one already.
- **Talk to your currency Account Manager**  
The currency markets are volatile so it's worth checking in to see what the situation is as the departure date draws nearer.

## 1 MONTH

- **Finish up**  
Anything that can be closed down, get closed down. From your Sky package to council tax, make sure you tie up as many loose ends as possible.
- **Check over paperwork**  
Take another look at all your

papers, fill in any gaps, and keep them organised.

- **Financial statements**  
Get together the three most recent months of your finances, including things like your wage slips and bank and mortgage statements.
- **Update your address details**  
Make a list of everyone you need to tell, and set up a forwarding service.
- **Get selling**  
Whether it's a car boot sale, eBay or Gumtree, sell any possessions you're not bringing with you.
- **Safety check**  
Contact your movers to make sure everything's in order and going ahead as planned.

## 1 WEEK

- **Spending money**  
While the bulk of your money should be in the hands of a currency firm like us, you'll need some cash to get by for a while.
- **Last minute checks**  
Go over everything you can think of and make sure it's organised. Also spend some time going over things like getting to the airport, picking up any essential paperwork, and other little tasks leftover.

LET THE  
ADVENTURE  
BEGIN!

# Thank you

**Get in touch to see how we can help get you moving:**

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