

Some facts about Portugal you probably never knew ...

or maybe you did?

Portugal Is The Oldest Country In Europe

Portugal stands as the oldest country in Europe, a status solidified in 1139 when King Afonso Henriques ascended to the throne. Lisbon, its capital, predates Rome by centuries, its rich history dating back to 1200 BC when the Phoenicians settled there due to its strategic location for trade.

The World's Oldest Bookstore Is In Lisbon

Lisbon's Chiado district is home to Livraria Bertrand, established in 1732 and recognized by the Guinness World Records in 2011 as the world's oldest bookstore still in operation. Today, Bertrand has expanded to 59 locations across Portugal, including Madeira.



The World's Oldest Alliance Is The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, initiated by the 1373 treaty, stands as the oldest active diplomatic alliance, despite a 60-year pause during the Iberian Union.

Portuguese Is The 9th Most Spoken Language Worldwide

Portuguese ranks as the ninth most spoken language globally, with 232.4 million native speakers and is the official language in nine countries.

Portugal And Spain Once Divided Up The World

The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, an agreement between Portugal and Spain mediated by the Vatican, aimed to divide the world's colonial territories along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands. This treaty, however, was largely ignored by other emerging powers.

Portugal Is Home To Europe's Second-Longest Bridge

Opened in 1998 for the Lisbon Expo, the Vasco da Gama Bridge, spanning 12 km, was Europe's longest bridge at the time, named to commemorate Vasco da Gama's historic sea voyage to India.



Portugal Had The Longest Dictatorship In Europe

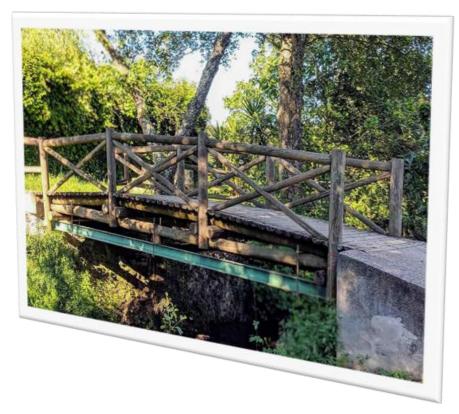
From 1926 to 1974, Portugal experienced Europe's longest dictatorship, characterized by Salazar's conservative and nationalistic regime. It ended with the Carnation Revolution, leading to democracy.

There's A Town In Spain That The Portuguese Want Back

Olivença (Olivenza in Spain), historically Portuguese, became contested after the early 19th century, remaining a point of contention between Portugal and Spain.

The World's Shortest International Bridge Is In Portugal

Linking Portugal and Spain, the world's shortest international bridge measures just 3.2 meters, in the Alentejo region, a symbol of cross-border connection.



The Largest Wave Ever Surfed Is In Portugal

In Nazaré, Sebastian Steudtner surfed an 86-foot wave in 2020, setting the record for the largest wave ever surfed, highlighting Portugal's reputation as a premier surfing destination.

Portugal Is Home To The Most Westerly Point In Europe

Cabo da Roca, within the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, stands as the westernmost point of continental Europe, offering stunning Atlantic views and a rich history dating back to Roman times.

Portugal Is The World's Largest Producer Of Cork

As the world's leading cork producer, Portugal dominates over half the global market, with cork's applications extending far beyond wine stoppers to fashion, construction, and more.



Portugal's Biggest Export Is Port Wine

Portugal's famous port wine, originating from the Douro Valley, is known for its sweet, robust flavor, a result of adding grape spirit during fermentation, a tradition dating back centuries.

Portugal Has More Indigenous Grape Varietals Than Anywhere Else

With over 250 indigenous grape varieties, Portugal boasts the most diverse range of native grapes globally, presenting both a rich heritage and a marketing challenge abroad.

Nando's Isn't Portuguese

Many people think Nando's is Portuguese, but in reality, Nando's is a South African restaurant chain that draws inspiration from a Mozambican recipe, adding a Portuguese theme to its offerings. This blend of culinary influences may sound a bit perplexing, and it is.



The Portuguese Empire Was One Of The Largest And Longest-Lasting

The Portuguese Empire, enduring nearly six centuries, was one of the largest and longest-lasting in history, marked by exploration and colonization across continents.

Portugal Introduced Tea To England

Catherine of Braganza introduced tea to England in 1662, sparking a lasting trend among the English elite, a cultural exchange that also brought tempura to Japan.

Portugal's National Dish Is Imported

Despite Portugal's love for cod, or Bacalhau, it must be imported and preserved in salt, a tradition with roots in Viking exchanges and Atlantic fishing expeditions.



Properties Of The Week

An inviting and spacious townhouse located in gated condominium in Vilamoura.



Nestled within a private enclave in Vilamoura, this delightful villa spans across two levels, offering a harmonious blend of comfort and functionality. Upon entering, you are greeted by an inviting foyer that leads seamlessly into a well-appointed kitchen featuring a quaint enclosed outdoor terrace.

Ref. <u>OH2707</u> **Price €695,000**

Superb Two Bed Apartment in Popular Residential area with Pool, Gym,Padel, Tennis & Restaurant

Discover a piece of paradise in the heart of the Algarve with this beautifully appointed top floor apartment. Nestled within the serene Al-Sakia Village in the sought-after Fonte Santa area of Quarteira, this twobedroom, two-bathroom gem offers a great investment opportunity.



Reduced in Price!

Ref. <u>OH2610</u> Price €289,000

Testimonial Of The Week



Rebecca is an excellent member of the team. She has demonstrated true dedication and is extremely professional. I have 30 years of experience in this market, as a former owner of a real estate agency, and I would be happy to use Rebecca as I continue in the marketplace.

Eduardo and Sandra Vilamoura

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