

Portugal

Country name	Portugal
State title	Portuguese Republic
Name of citizen	Portuguese
National official language	Portuguese (<i>por</i>) ¹
Country name in national official language	Portugal
State title in national official language	República Portuguesa
Script	Roman script
Romanization System	Not required
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	PT / PRT
Capital (Portuguese)	Lisboa
Capital (English conventional name)	Lisbon
Area / Population	92,200km ² / 10.75 million (2024 est.) ²

Introduction

Portugal lies in the southwest of Europe bordering Spain and the Atlantic Ocean, with two autonomous regions in the Atlantic Ocean: Açores (Azores) and Madeira. Though small, its location has long ensured its geopolitical and maritime significance.

Geographical names policy and sources

For HMG use, geographical names should be taken from official sources from Portugal. The national mapping agency is the *Instituto Geográfico Português* and its materials can be accessed through Portugal's National Geographic Information System (SNIG), available at: <https://snig.dgterritorio.gov.pt>.

The national official map of Portugal, 2025, is available here: [Carta Administrativa Oficial de Portugal | Direção-Geral do Território](#) and the official geoportal here: [Visualizador de mapas da DGT](#). These are both easy-to-use sources for accurate geographical names.

¹ ISO 639 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

² UN data

Languages

Portugal has one official national language, Portuguese, which is used throughout the country. A number of minority languages are also used, two of which have official recognition in their respective local areas. The first was recognised in 1999: Mirandese [*mwI*], with about 3000 speakers in northeastern Portugal, largely within Miranda do Douro municipality. Since 2021, Barranquenho (no ISO 639 code, but sometimes considered a dialect of Extremaduran [*ext*]) has been recognized and protected in the municipality of Barrancos. These minority languages will not be found on official mapping, though there is some use of Mirandese toponyms on road signs in the local area.

Inventory of Characters (and their Unicode encodings)³

Portuguese contains the following letter-diacritic combinations and special letters in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
À	00C0	à	00E0
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ã	00C3	ã	00E3
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Í	00CD	í	00ED
Ó	00D3	ó	00F3
Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Õ	00D5	õ	00F5
Ú	00DA	ú	00FA

Portuguese also includes seven digraphs: *ch*, *lh*, *nh*, *rr*, *ss*, *qu* and *gu*.

³ See www.unicode.org

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Map of Portugal



Map produced for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

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Administrative structure

Portugal is divided into 2 autonomous regions (*região autónoma*: Açores and Madeira, listed first in the table below) and 18 districts (*distrito*). The districts are subdivided into *concelhos* or *municípios* (municipalities) and it is at this level that much of the administrative work is undertaken. The regions used for the NUTS classification system for statistical purposes are also widely seen as the overarching grouping above municipalities: these 2 metropolitan areas (Lisboa and Porto) and 21 intermunicipal communities are used in many sources (including on the 2025 administrative map of Portugal: [C ADM 2025 A4.pdf](#)). However, since the districts are both widely used and familiar, these are the more natural subdivision to show on HMG products.

Administrative division	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre	Centre location
Açores	PT-20	Ponta Delgada ⁴	37°44'34"N 25°40'01"W
Madeira	PT-30	Funchal	32°38'28"N 16°56'23"W
Aveiro	PT-01	Aveiro	40°38'45"N 08°38'47"W
Beja	PT-02	Beja	38°00'53"N 07°51'46"W
Braga	PT-03	Braga	41°33'05"N 08°25'23"W
Bragança	PT-04	Bragança	41°48'26"N 06°45'32"W
Castelo Branco	PT-05	Castelo Branco	39°49'25"N 07°29'28"W
Coimbra	PT-06	Coimbra	40°12'25"N 08°25'12"W
Évora	PT-07	Évora	38°33'57"N 07°54'15"W
Faro	PT-08	Faro	37°01'10"N 07°55'56"W
Guarda	PT-09	Guarda	40°32'15"N 07°15'59"W
Leiria	PT-10	Leiria	39°44'54"N 08°48'14"W
Lisboa	PT-11	Lisboa (Lisbon)	38°43'31"N 09°09'00"W
Portalegre	PT-12	Portalegre	39°17'48"N 07°25'49"W
Porto	PT-13	Porto ⁵	41°08'55"N 08°36'39"W
Santarém	PT-14	Santarém	39°14'02"N 08°41'10"W
Setúbal	PT-15	Setúbal	38°31'53"N 08°53'50"W
Viana do Castelo	PT-16	Viana do Castelo	41°41'36"N 08°49'58"W
Vila Real	PT-17	Vila Real	41°18'00"N 07°44'36"W
Viseu	PT-18	Viseu	40°39'42"N 07°54'33"W

⁴ While Ponta Delgada is the executive capital, Angra do Heroísmo and Horta are considered the judicial and legislative capitals respectively.

⁵ The formerly common English conventional name, Oporto, is now little used.

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Other Significant Locations

PCGN Recommended Name ⁶	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Açores	Azores (<i>eng</i>)	08°39'36"N 28°04'12"W	Archipelago and autonomous region c.1400km west of mainland Portugal, comprising islands of Corvo, Faial, Flores, Graciosa, Pico, Santa Maria, São Jorge, São Miguel, Terceira and the uninhabited Ilhéus das Formigas
Alentejo	<i>Meaning 'beyond the Tejo (Tagus)'</i>	38°03'30"N 08°07'00"W	Region
Algarve	<i>Derived from Arabic al gharb = the west</i>	37°14'31"N 08°10'12"W	Region
Douro	Río Duero [<i>spa</i>] (if map label in Spain); Douro [<i>por</i>] (if map label in Portugal)	41°08'36"N 08°40'10"W	River
Macaronesia		24°15'24"N 22°28'16"W	Collection of volcanic archipelagoes comprising the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and Cape Verde
Madeira		32°45'00"N 17°00'00"W	Archipelago and autonomous region c.800km southwest of mainland Portugal, comprising islands of Madeira, Porto Santo, and the uninhabited archipelagoes of Ilhas Desertas, Ilhas Selvagens
Minho/Miño	Miño [<i>spa</i>] (if map label in Spain); Minho [<i>por</i>] (if map label in Portugal)	41°52'00"N 08°52'12"W	River
Montanha do Pico		38°28'08"N 28°23'56"W	High point in Portugal (in Açores), 2351m
Serra da Estrela		40°19'19"N 07°36'47"W	Mountain range

⁶ PCGN usually recommends conventional English names for international features, unless national variants are specifically required, or the relevant countries share an official language.

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PCGN Recommended Name ⁶	Variant Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Tagus (English conventional name, if referring to the whole river)	Tajo [<i>spa</i>] (if map label in Spain); Tejo [<i>por</i>] (if map label in Portugal)	40°19'15"N 01°41'49"W	River [<i>Spain; Portugal</i>]
Tâmega		41°04'55"N 08°17'35"W	River
Trás-os-Montes		41°29'00"N 07°13'00"W	Geographical/cultural region

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile (no longer updated): [Portugal country profile - BBC News](#)
- Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com (for information on languages)
- FCDO Geographical Names Index (GNI):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): [PT - Portugal](#)
- National official map of Portugal, 2025: [Carta Administrativa Oficial de Portugal | Direção-Geral do Território](#)
- Omniglot: www.omniglot.com (for information on languages and scripts)
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Portugal's National Geographic Information System: <https://snig.dgterritorio.gov.pt>
- Portugal's official geoportal: [Visualizador de mapas da DGT](#)
- Unicode: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names GONet Names Server: [GNS Search & Download WebApp \(nga.mil\)](#)

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