

Portugal's immigration regime: visas & residence authorisations

Portugal become very popular for European and non-Europeans to visit and live in Portugal, in these recent past years. At the moment, the immigration services suffer with a high demand of requests, for all type of visas and residence permits. The demand is so high, that since July 2019, is not possible to book any more appointments at SEF (Portuguese Immigration services), for the current year, as well as many Portuguese Consulates and Embassies have delegated the visas application into companies (through the celebration of a service contract with the Portuguese state) and the timing for getting a visa has increased from a month to three months average.

The visas are issued by the Portuguese embassy in the country of residence of the applicant; the residence authorisations are responsibility of the Portuguese Immigration services (*Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras*).

Who needs a visa to enter in Portugal?

Any European citizens or Schengen countries nationals can enter in Portugal without a visa, only being necessary to show their ID cards or passports. If these nationals want to live in Portugal they should apply for a residence authorisation. Any non-European nationals need a visa to enter and stay in Portugal. The exception to the rule, is the "visa free entry", which is allowed to nationals of countries who signed international agreements with Portugal. Therefore, these nationals only need to get their passport stamped by the Portuguese Immigration services, when they arrive, so they are considered to have a "tourist visa", which is valid for 90 days, possible to extend for another 90 days, if the necessary criteria's are in place.

visa free entry countries

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Albania ¹ | Nicaragua |
| Andorra | New Zealand |
| Ancient Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia ¹ | Palau |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Panama |
| Argentina | Paraguay |
| Australia | Peru |
| Bahamas | Salvador |
| Barbados | Samoa |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina ¹ | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| Brazil | Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| | San Marino |

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| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brunei | Santa Lucia |
| Canada | Santa Se |
| Chile | Seychelles |
| Colombia | Servia ^{1/2} |
| Costa Rica | Singapura |
| Dominica | Solomon Islands |
| Georgia | South Korea |
| Granada | Timor-Leste |
| Guatemala | Tonga |
| Honduras | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Israel | Tuvalu |
| Japan | Ucrania ¹ |
| Kiribati | United Arab Emirates |
| Malaysia | United States of America |
| Marshall islands | Uruguay |
| Mauritius | Vanuatu |
| Mexico | Venezuela |
| Micronesia | Especial Administrative Region of |
| Moldavia ¹ | Hong Kong ³ |
| Monaco | Especial Administrative Region of |
| Montenegro ¹ | Macau ⁴ |
| | Taiwan ¹ |
| | United Kingdom Passports |

Fonte: www.vistos.mne.pt

What type of visas can be issued?

The nationality of the applicant, the purpose of the stay and the duration of the stay in Portugal will determine the type of visa it's needed to enter and stay in Portugal.

The visas predicted by law are:

- Airport transit visa – allows transit within the international area of the airport, from one flight to another, without entering the Schengen area.
- Transit and short stay visa – issued for transit and short-term stays and are valid for a total of 90 days within a six month period, allowing one, two or multiple entries. The most common types of short stay visas are the Portuguese tourist visa and the business visa.
- Limited Territorial Validity visa – a special visa that allows to travel only to Portugal, for a period of year for specific reasons.
- Portuguese residence visa, which is valid for a four-month period in order to give the necessary time to request a residence authorisation after arrival. If it is done in time, then the visa will be cancelled.

The Limited Territorial Validity visas and short stay visas can be requested for:

- Medical treatment reasons;
- Scientific research or teaching in a higher education school;

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- 3) Sports activity;
- 4) Transfer of workers between countries within the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
- 5) To accompany a family member for medical treatment;
- 6) International commitments;
- 7) Employment or self-employment.

The duration of the visas can be extended, in Portuguese territory, up to one year, depending of the type of the visa and if the criteria's for granting the visa in question are still the same.

What is a residence authorisation and who needs to apply for it?

This document is a title who allows you to stay in Portugal for more than 6 months. So, if the intention is to reside in Portugal, than it should be required a temporary residence authorisation. The type of application and the documents to be presented differ from European nationals to non-European nationals. The non-Europeans, before entering into Portugal, should ask for a Portuguese residence visa, which is valid for a four-month period in order to request a residence authorisation after arrival.

After five years of having legal and uninterrupted temporary residence, residents can apply for Portuguese permanent residence.

And those residents can apply for Portuguese citizenship after six years of having legal and uninterrupted residence, if they already speak the Portuguese language.

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04/09/2019

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