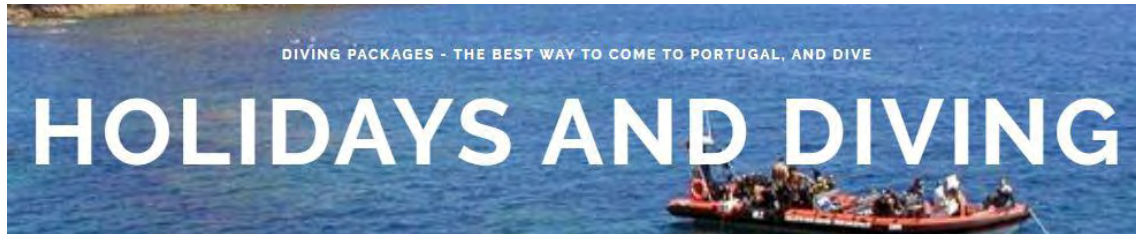




PACKAGE Proposal Azores Archipelago Liveaboard

This Program is adaptable.



Destination

[The Azores Archipelago](#), Portugal

[São Miguel](#)

Ponta Delgada Airport, (PDL)

Length of stay

Eleven days/ ten nights

Onboard: eight days/ seven nights

On the Island: three days/ three nights

Summary

Sailing the Azores' archipelago waters, you'll glimpse its islands while diving into the most pristine waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

You will enjoy incredible visibilities, fantastic dive spots, the company of numerous species and, of course, the big pelagics.

The Azores, the islands Mother Nature has created, full of natural beauty, are waiting for you to be discovered in the blue immensity of the Atlantic Ocean.

Category of stay

Solo

Couple

Family

Friends

Groups

Divers and non-divers



Info weather conditions

Usually, the climate is neither too hot nor cold, with the most frequent rainfall between October and March. It is also true that summer temperatures are generally higher with constant humidity. Warmer temperatures than recorded, and winter temperatures may seem colder than those reported due to high winds.

When visiting the Azores, prepare for an unpredictable and ever-changing climate. You can tan in the winter by relaxing in the sun. On the other hand, it may be necessary to wear a coat or warm up on the beach in summer, when the sun hides behind the clouds, and the wind blows.

Water temperatures: 16°C to 24°C:

Air temperatures: 12°C to 25°C.

Details of Program



Day 1 – Azores, São Miguel. After flying to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, you arrive at the Ponta Delgada International Airport (PDL). After the formalities, you will proceed to the 4-star hotel at Ponta Delgada, where you will stay for this first night.

São Miguel is the Archipelago's biggest island, with 62.1 km in length and 15.8 km at its maximum width. More than half of the Azorean population lives here. Together with

Santa Maria, located 81 km away, one of the islands you'll visit in this liveaboard, São Miguel, is part of the Eastern Group of the Azores Archipelago. You will have the pleasure of seeing some parts of São Miguel island. But not today.

Days 2 to 9 – Sailing the Azores archipelago, São Miguel. Today is the day your dream comes true. The fantastic Azores Liveaboard is about to set sail.

After a short ride, you will arrive at the Vila Franca do Campo Marina, where a fantastic catamaran is being prepared to welcome you for the next eight days.



You will embark on a catamaran built exclusively and prepared to carry divers. Here you'll spend the next eight days. But first, you need to know the basics of living and diving on board; the Crew will explain everything you need to know.

Your Water and Wind Catamaran she's a beautifully equipped Fountaine Pajot sailing catamaran, based on the model Helia 44; 13,30m/ 43.5ft length and 7,40m/ 24,3ft

beam, displaces 10,8 tons. It has a capacity for eight divers plus a crew of three and accommodates the guests in four cabins, each with a dedicated WC.



After everything is explained, the catamaran leaves the Marina, and you head for the first dive, a check dive, to be sure all equipment is okay for the next days diving.

You will dive in the morning; you will dive in the afternoon; you will dive whenever you want.

Typically, you jump into the water twice per day in this liveaboard, and the total number of dives depends on the weather—sea conditions and, of course, the itinerary you choose for the week. But one thing you can take for granted is that the ocean is under your feet; if you like diving, dive.



Many dive spots are waiting for you. And we will talk about where to dive while we sail.

However, we can guess the following will be in the chosen group.

As soon as we see a small lighthouse in the middle of the ocean, we know we are arriving at the "Ilheu das Formigas" dive spot. The lighthouse is surrounded by small islets (translated from the Portuguese "Ants Islets") with only 11 meters of height and 165 meters of length, which means that we are arriving at the marine reserve of the Islet of the Ants. At 35 meters deep, we find the top of the rock. Here we can see Whiting, giant Groupers, Dogfish and Queenfish.



Before launching the anchor, we can already see some schools of fish abound in these crystal clear waters, such as Bermuda Sea Chub, Grey Triggerfish and Amberjacks.

All these places have in common the possibility of encounters with large migratory pelagics such as the beautiful Skipjack Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Barracuda, Atlantic Bonito, Yellow Barracuda and Rust.

Sometimes this scenario is even more complete with the presence of Sharks, such as the mythical Hammerhead Shark and the Blue Shark, or by several Manta Rays and even the gigantic Manta (*Manta birostris*).

In addition to the large "blue" shoals, this area has abundant wildlife, with giant fish such as Wrasses, Groupers and Whiting, among the slopes and crevices.

Another spot you will want to dive is the "Baixa do Ambrosio". This reef is one of the most sought-after spots, even though it is considered a deep dive. The reason for that is that the bottom is found at 50mts. Many opt to stay on the rope between 2 and 15mts to observe the vast shoals of fish, devil rays, etc. For the more experienced divers, the bottom also offers life in abundance. We can see Stingrays, Red scorpionfish, shoals of





Amberjacks and Bluefish. This place is also fantastic for snorkelling, although there may be moderate currents.

The Azores Archipelago has much to offer underwater. You have dozens of different dive spots to try. To start your planning, look at the other sites and dive spots.

Other dives on this location:

- <https://www.portugaldive.com/best-dives/spots/azores/all/all/all.html>



After seven days of sailing the Azores' pristine clear waters, it is time to return to São Miguel. And on the eighth day, you will probably wake up at the Marina you already know.

Understandably, you don't want it to finish. We don't want that either. We hope this is the end of your first liveaboard in the Azores but not the last time you dive at one of the world's best diving destinations.

Days 9 to 11 – Azores, São Miguel – Ponta Delgada.

Although the diving has ended, this is the time to know São Miguel Island better. We have prepared the topside experiences to show you more about the island and the ocean.

A one-day visit that will equal the beauty and surprise everything you've seen underwater.

And a whale-watching tour that will connect you to the world's biggest mammals.

We kid you not, after these days feeling the Azores: you wouldn't change the topside experiences with more days diving! So let's go for your first tour of the Azores archipelago.



The tour will take you to the south coast of the island. At Vila Franca do Campo, once the first capital of the Azores, you will visit the famous Queijadas da Vila factory.



After tasting this famous pastry, the tour goes to the Furnas Valley, along the banks of the romantic lagoon, where you are surprised by how "Cozido à Portuguesa" is cooked — in the ground. You will see, berried, what you will have for lunch.

After lunch, the hot springs area, with its fumaroles and springs of thermal and mineral water, from where the group proceeds, ascending to the viewpoint of Pico do Ferro, where you enjoy this superb view over the crater that surrounds the Furnas valley.

Continuing along the north coast — the tea factory, the unique tea plantation site in Europe, where you can enjoy the beautiful view of the tea plantation and the north coast, sipping a cup of tea. Returning to Ponta Delgada, a stop at the viewpoint of Santa Iria, with an idyllic view of the island's north coast.

Next experience: whale watching.

In the Azores, you can observe 27 species of cetaceans throughout the year, always in the company of a professional team of skippers, biologists and lookouts. Before leaving for the sea, a briefing on cetaceans, sighting methods, safety rules and the code of ethics for observing cetaceans in the Azores.

With the help of lookouts strategically placed on the island's south coast, the boat sets out to meet these unique beings on a fun, adventure, discovery, and scientific knowledge journey. We will provide you with an unforgettable experience in just a few hours!



Day 11 – Azores, São Miguel, Ponta Delgada. Time to say goodbye. While your driver takes you to the airport, start planning your next trip to the Azores. If you want to come back, start planning the next dive trip to the Azores.

And we will be here to do it with you.





Price per person

Pricing on Request

Included

Airport – Marina – hotel – airport transportation
Eight days/ seven nights liveaboard
Four meals per day onboard
Fifteen dives
Three days/ three nights 5-star hotel, room for two with breakfast
One-day tour with a geothermal cooked meal
Whale watch tour
Tanks – AIR
Weights

Excluded

International flights
Meals other than those already mentioned
Equipment and diving computer

Options on request

15 ltr tank +10,00 EUR per day
Diving Training (onboard), PADI/ SSI/ SDI
Other maritime activities
Other topside experiences



Azores pics – São Miguel





Liveboard The boat



Based on the model Helia 44, 13,30m/ 43.5ft length and 7,40m/ 24,3ft beam, a Fountaine Pajot sailing catamaran displaces 10,8 tons. Capacity for eight divers plus Crew accommodates the guests in four cabins, each with a dedicated WC. One cabin WC is shared with the Crew. Silent and ecological sailing with solar power and wind generator.



The Sailing:

- 8 days – 7 nights sailing.
- Check-in at 15:00 on Saturday at the Espirito Azul dive centre, Vila Franca do Campo Marina. After boarding around 16:00, briefing and check dive.
- Check-out from the boat – until 09:00 on Saturday.
- Departure and arrival port is Vila Franca do Campo Marina, located on the island of São Miguel, roughly 30 Km away from the Ponta Delgada Airport (PDL).



Conditions for the liveaboard:

- 4 Twin bedrooms, 3 with private bathroom; beds can split into two single beds – panel insertion – if previously requested.
- For individual group bookings, six guests maximum (3 cabins).
- For liveaboards, one group of 8 guests (maximum number of guests, if it is a full charter), one of the bathrooms will be shared with the Crew (Skipper, Chef and Instructor), although this bathroom has external access, and therefore independent from the private entrance from the guest's room)
- Includes all the meals, soft drinks, tea and coffee.
- Alcoholic drinks not included (possible to purchase onboard);
- All port and Maritime reserves taxes are included.
- All dives included, with 12L steel tank (DIN or INT) and weight belt. Double-valve tanks are also possible on request.
- 2 to 3 dives a day (it depends on the weather, sailing conditions, and distances to be covered on that day);
- Free WIFI, although limited and not available in some offshore places.
- Included a set of towels (bath, beach, and hand towel) and a set of fresh linen for each guest.
- Soap, body gel, and shampoo by the guests. There's a supermarket close to the dive centre.



- Bring seasickness pills if prone to seasickness.
- Although dive insurance is offered to all the guests, including all diving and boating activities, we recommend the guests have their diving insurance, covering their choices and types of equipment.

Important notes:



- The liveaboard doesn't have a fixed itinerary. Diving routes and diving spots depend on weather conditions, preferences and guests' experience. The general idea is to dive into the Azores' most known offshore dive spots (Formigas, Dollabarat, Ambrósio, D. João de Castro, etc.) These routes and options will be briefed to the guests on arrival and decided according to their expectations, experience, weather, and conditions (diving and sailing conditions). The Azores archipelago has nine islands, spread along a distance of around 600 km, so only in a two weeks program can we visit more than 2 or 3 islands since we aim to visit offshore diving Spots, where diving is the best.
- Although the Azores is well known for having many different types of whales, most of these will never show up in dive sites, which have shallower depths, so the only possibility to see whales is during the cruising times to the offshore spots, when done by daylight. In the Azores, diving with whales or dolphins is forbidden by law (only snorkelling with dolphins is allowed).
- Diving with Blue Sharks in the Azores is only possible in perfect conditions (no current, no waves, etc.) and only in some spots in the Archipelago, usually 250 meters or more depth. The Blue Sharks don't come to regular dive spots. Although there are Hammerheads, Blue Sharks, Makos, Whale Sharks, etc., dives, for example, Blue Shark dives are performed hanging on ropes that are hanging from a boat and using chumming techniques (not feeding, but attracting them with the smell of fish blood and small fish parts from tuna heads and other greasy fish like horse mackerel), which is the only way to have some chance to attract these animals, and using smaller boats (zodiacs), for easier/quitter water entry and also to be faster to get in and out of the water. The liveaboard doesn't offer this type of dive. During the trip, if the Water and Wind are close to any of these shark diving spots, conditions are gathered for it, and if guests want to do it, we can arrange a shark diving operator and try to book it. There's a cost associated with bringing in this activity.
- For single-week programs, we don't recommend visiting Princess Alice bank. This dive spot is around 300 km from the departure port, which would mean spending too many hours sailing instead of using those for diving in unique places. Also, Princess Alice is known for mobulas and mantas, which we can find much closer to our route (Formigas, Dollabarat, Ambrósio, etc.), and with the advantage of getting a lot more chances for seeing whale sharks, since they appear a lot more in the south islands of São Miguel and Santa Maria.
- Minimum certification requested is Level 2 (AOWD or equivalent), and 50 logged dives. Guests with less experience are welcome in some of the bookable weeks but will have to



follow the decisions of the instructor on board strictly or accept that some diving conditions might not be suitable for them. Divers should be autonomous, able to climb a ladder with all the equipment, deploy an SMB, jump from a diving platform, and climb onto a dinghy.

- Instructor or Divemaster guided dives – There's one Instructor or Divemaster for the group. A private Instructor can be hired if previously requested.
- Spare equipment is available onboard for any coming failure on the equipment. Still, it is vital to check all the gear in the first dive to be sure all is good and to be able to replace/repair everything before sailing to the offshore spots.
- Considering that it is not advisable to dive less than 24h before the flight, the last dives will be on Thursday, or Friday morning, depending on the hour of the flight. For the rest of the day (Friday), we will most likely be sailing back from the offshore spots to the arrival port to arrive at the end of the day or at night.
- If the weather does not allow the boat to go out for a specific day, guests can still enjoy the stay onboard and enjoy all the included meals, so the only things guests cannot do are the dives and the sailing. We will do our best to offer other inland programs or local dives with Espirito Santo Dive Center. Anyway, during the regular season, this is rare to happen.
- To manage the space onboard, all the hard, or bigger suitcases, will be left on the port at the Espirito Santo Dive Center. Guests unload their bags into the boat before departure, and pouches are stored at the Dive Center facilities. Bring smaller soft bags to make it easier to unload or store in the catamaran. (Except for the diving gear, which can be directly assembled or stored in the proper places onboard).
- Electricity plugs onboard are European 220 Volts Type C and F, plus USB charging points.
- A wind stopper is advisable, and the only allowed shoes onboard are white-soled, non-marking sailing ones. Check the weather conditions thoroughly and bring some warm clothes.
- Special diet requests, please let us know in advance (allergies, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.).



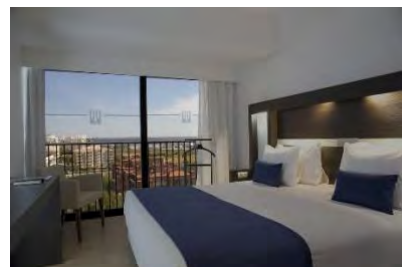


Place of stay at Ponta Delgada – 5-star
Grand Hotel Açores Atlântico



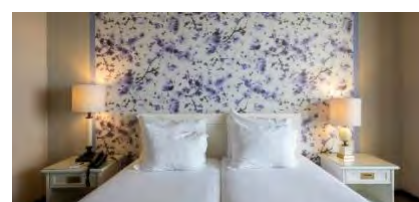


Place of stay at Pnta Delgada – 4-star
Hotel Marina Atlântico





Place of stay at Água de Pau – 4-star
Hotel Pestana Bahia Praia ****





About the Azores



Mother Nature has created a land full of natural beauty, ready to be explored, in the blue immensity of the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores.

To the East, on the Island of Santa Maria, the beaches of warm white sand are inviting, and the vineyards covering the slopes like an amphitheatre resemble giant staircases. São Miguel, the largest island, is seductive with its Sete Cidades and Fogo Lagoons. The power emanates from the earth in geysers, hot thermal waters and volcanic lakes, and the tasty "Cozido das Furnas" is slowly cooked inside the ground.

In the Central Group, the islands of Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, Faial and Graciosa are set harmoniously in the deep blue sea, where whales and dolphins can be spotted to the delight of visitors. On Terceira, the World Heritage town of Angra do Heroísmo, as well as its festivals, is steeped in history. Faial is the cool blue of the hydrangeas; the Marina painted colourfully by yachters from all over the world and the extinct Capelinhos volcano, which resembles a lunar landscape. Pico is front, a mountain that emerges from the sea, with vineyards planted in black lava fields and a unique culture with World Heritage status. On São Jorge, the highlights are the Fajãs and the cheese, a unique speciality with an unmistakable flavour. Graceful in both name and appearance, Graciosa is an island of green fields covered with vineyards contrasting with its peculiar windmills.





On the Island of Flores, the natural waterfalls and lakes carved out by volcanoes dazzle the Western group. The tiny island of Corvo has a broad, beautiful crater at its centre and attracts many birds from Europe and America.

These are the Azores. Nine islands, nine small worlds with as many similarities as differences, but where all share the friendliness of their inhabitants.

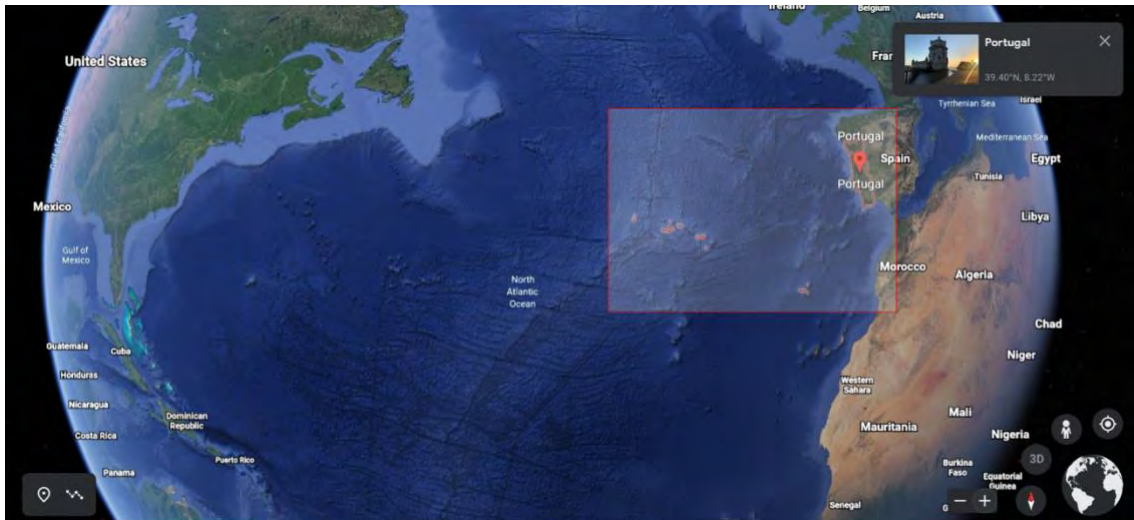


About Portugal

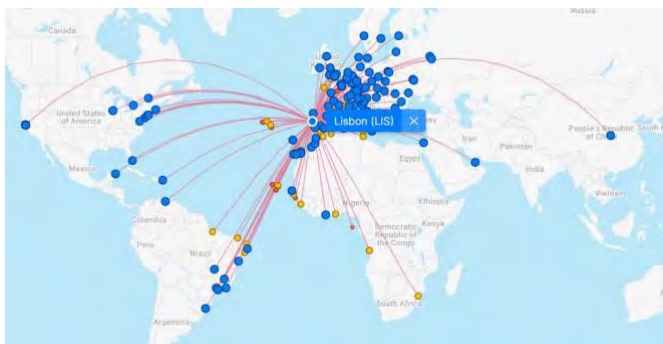
Portugal is the [most western territory in Europe](#), has a coastal range of 1000+ miles with hundreds of beach sites, and is a synonym for pleasant temperature and sunshine all year round.

Portugal is also a synonym of peacefulness, being considered the third most peaceful country in the world (ref. [Global Peace Index](#)).

LOCALISATION



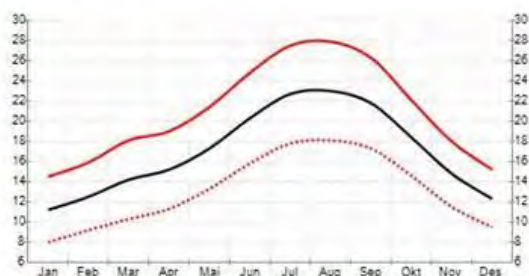
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO PORTUGAL (LIS)



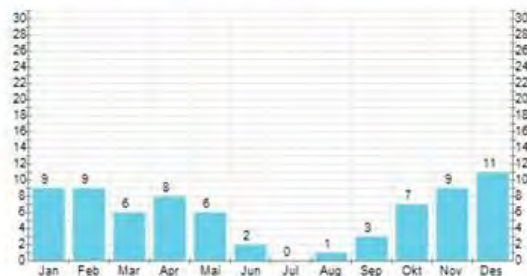
152 airports worldwide have direct flights to Lisbon (LIS), spread around 138 cities in 50 countries.



Average temperature per month



Average days with precipitation per month



PORTUGAL IDENTITY CARD

Source: Visit Portugal, the Portuguese Tourism Board website

With its mild climate, 3000 hours of sunshine per year and 850 km of splendid beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is the perfect holiday destination all year round.

Portugal is the country that has the oldest borders in Europe, with an exceptional range of different landscapes just a short distance away, lots of leisure activities and a unique cultural heritage where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony. Its superb cuisine, fine wines and hospitable people make this a tourist paradise of the highest quality.

Situated in the extreme southwest of Europe, just a few hours from other European capitals, Portugal attracts visitors from all over the world.

GEOGRAPHY

Portugal is situated southwest of Europe and includes the Madeira and Azores archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean. Mainland Portugal occupies an area of 88,889 km². It is 218 km wide and 561 km long. It has 832 km of the Atlantic coast and a 1,215 km border with Spain.

The Azores are situated in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and North America. They have an area of 2,355 km² and consist of nine islands - São Miguel and Santa Maria in the Eastern Group, Terceira, Graciosa, São Jorge, Pico and Faial in the Central Group and Flores and Corvo in the Western Group. By plane, it takes two hours to get from the Azores to mainland Portugal.

The Madeira Archipelago has an area of 741 km² and lies in the Atlantic Ocean, about 500 km from the African coast and 1,000 km from the European continent (1½ hours flying time from Lisbon). It consists of Madeira and Porto Santo islands and the uninhabited Desertas and Selvagens islands, which are nature reserves.

CLIMATE

Mainland Portugal

The climate in Portugal varies considerably from one region to another. It is influenced by the relief, latitude and proximity to the sea, which offers mild winters, especially in the Algarve.

In the Porto e Norte area and Beiras region, particularly inland, nearer Spain, the winters are colder, although the temperatures are mild compared to the rest of Europe. There is some snowfall. It occurs most in the Serra da Estrela mountains, where we find the highest point in mainland Portugal (1,991 m) and where it is sometimes possible to ski.



The summers are hot and dry, especially in the inland areas (Trás-os-Montes in north-eastern Portugal and Alentejo). Temperatures are slightly lower in the coastal regions because of the influence of the sea.

There are often warm, sunny days in autumn. Nice weather at the beginning of November is often called "St. Martin's Summer" as this saint's day is 11 November.

Azores

The climate in the Azores is influenced by the islands' latitude and the Gulf Stream, and temperatures are mild all year round. The same factors also influence the sea temperature, which is very pleasant both in winter and summer and ideal for nautical sports all year round.

Madeira

Its geographical position and mountainous relief can explain the subtropical characteristics of the weather in the Madeira Archipelago. The climate in Madeira is exceptionally mild, with average temperatures varying between 24 °C in summer and 19 °C in winter.

The sea temperature is also enjoyed all year round, thanks to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream. It varies between 18 °C in winter and 22 °C in summer.

POPULATION

Portugal has a population of about 10 million.

The population density is at its greatest in Lisbon, the capital and its suburbs, where about 1.9 million people live. The second-largest city in Portugal is Oporto in the north.

Generally speaking, more people live in the country's coastal regions than in inland areas.

RELIGION

Most Portuguese are Catholics, but the Portuguese Constitution guarantees religious freedom, and there are many different religions in Portugal.

LANGUAGE

From a Latin root, Portuguese is spoken by about 250 million people in every continent and is the 5th most spoken language in the world and the 3rd if we only consider the European languages.

Portuguese-speaking countries are scattered all over the world. Portuguese is the official language in many African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe), in South America (Brazil) and Asia (East Timor, the youngest nation in the world), and it is also the official language in Macao Special Administrative Region of China.

In Portugal, many people can communicate in English, French and Spanish.

Source: VisitPortugal.com