



NEWS, LATEST, CURRENT TOPICS

RESIDENCY IN PORTUGAL - VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT

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Foreign citizens from non-European Union countries wishing to relocate to Portugal should be informed in advance about the necessary documents to legally reside in the national territory. Among these documents, it is important to distinguish between the Visa and the Residence Permit.

National Visa

The Visa is the document that allows entry into national territory, typically in the form of a stamp in the passport, and depending on the reason for its issuance, it enables staying in Portugal for a specific period.

All visa applications must be submitted to the Portuguese consular services in the applicant's country of origin. In cases where there is no consular representation in the country, it should be determined which consulate is competent.

For extended stays, it is important to understand the difference between the Temporary Stay Visa and the Residence Visa.

What's the difference between the temporary stay visa and the residence visa?

The temporary stay visa grants its holder the right to stay in Portugal for a period not exceeding 1 year, valid for multiple entries into national territory.

Meanwhile, the residence visa allows its holder to enter national territory to apply for a residence permit. This visa is valid for two entries and allows staying in Portugal for a period of 4 months, during which an application for a residence permit must be submitted.

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Note that, under certain circumstances, it is possible to extend the validity of the temporary stay visa and the residence visa.

Residence Permit

The residence permit is requested in national territory, from the Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum, I.P. (AIMA) and initially has a validity of 2 years, renewable for a period of 3 years. After 5 years of residency authorization, the holder may apply for a permanent residence card and/or citizenship, if all necessary requirements are met, including proof of knowledge of the Portuguese language.

The case of Digital Nomads:

I am a Digital Nomad, what documents do I need to legally reside in Portugal?

Since October 2022, Portugal has two types of visas for digital nomads: the temporary stay visa (valid for one year) and the residence visa for the exercise of professional activity provided remotely from outside the national territory (which allows the applicant to obtain a residence permit).

Therefore, there is an option regarding the type of title to be obtained, depending on the applicant's intention – that is, whether the intention is to reside in Portugal for just a period of one year or to actually reside in Portugal.

In terms of requirements, they are identical in both cases. To apply for a temporary stay visa or a residence visa for Digital Nomads, in addition to the general requirements for granting each of these visas, the applicant must prove:

- the existence of a labor relationship with entity(ies) based outside Portugal, in the form of dependent or independent work;
- average monthly net income equal to a minimum of four Portuguese minimum wages (currently, about € 3.280,00 net monthly), with reference to the last 3 months;
- proof of tax residence in a foreign country.

“The residence permit is requested in national territory, from the Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum, I.P. (AIMA) (...)”

Digital Nomad Residence Visa (D8) and D7 Visa

It is important to distinguish between the Digital Nomad Residence Visa, also known as the D8 Visa, and the so-called D7 Visa.

The D7 Visa is a residence visa for citizens living off passive income, typically associated with retirees. In addition to retirees, individuals living off income from movable or immovable property, intellectual property, or financial investments fall under the D7 Visa regime.

Until the creation of the Digital Nomad Visa, situations of individuals earning income from work performed remotely from outside Portugal fell within the scope of the D7 Visa.

Currently, a citizen wishing to reside in Portugal and earning income from work, whenever it is provided remotely from outside the national territory, will necessarily fall within the scope of the D8 Visa.

Taking into account the differences indicated above, if you are planning to move to Portugal, find out about the legal requirements you must comply with and make sure you decide on the type of visa that best suits your personal situation.

