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COMPASS

Cross-Border Marriage Kit

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CROSS-BORDER MARIAGE KIT

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Overview

CATEGORY	FRANCE	PORTUGAL
AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE	Town Hall (Mairie) – civil registrar. Banns must be posted (10 days).	Conservatória do Registo Civil – civil marriage is the only legally valid form . Religious marriages must be registered at the Conservatória.
COSTS	Civil ceremony is free ; extra costs apply for translations and copies.	Civil ceremony fee ~ 120–150€ , depending on location. Additional costs for translations or certificates.
PROCESSING TIMES	Banns posting : at least 10 days . File preparation: ~ 1–2 months .	Marriage process (processo de casamento) : verification takes ~ 1–2 months . Authorisation valid for 6 months .
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS	Documents must be in French , or translated by a sworn French translator , unless issued as multilingual EU forms .	Documents must be in Portuguese or translated by a sworn Portuguese translator (tradutor juramentado) , unless issued in multilingual format.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required under EU Regulation 2016/1191 and the CIEC Convention .	Same: multilingual civil-status extracts accepted without apostille.
IMMIGRATION EFFECT	Portuguese spouse in France → apply for a VLS-TS visa , then vie privée et familiale residence card .	French spouse in Portugal → benefits from EU free movement , must register residence with the Junta de Freguesia / SEF .

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Legal Requirements

FRANCE

- **Civil marriage** at the **Town Hall (Mairie)** is the **only legally valid** form; religious weddings have **no legal effect**.
- **Where you can marry:** in the commune where at least **one spouse resides** (or has a parent domiciled). A **1-month residence link** is generally required.
- **Banns:** must be published for **10 days** at the mairie.
- **Witnesses:** minimum **2**, maximum **4**, all adults with valid ID.

Documents required (Portuguese spouse):

- **Passport or Portuguese ID card (Cartão de Cidadão).**
- **Full birth certificate (Certidão de Nascimento)**, issued within **6 months**.
- **Certificate of No Impediment (Certificado de Capacidade Matrimonial)**, issued by the **Portuguese Civil Registry (Conservatória do Registo Civil)**.
- **Proof of residence** in France (if applicable).
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Translations:** Portuguese documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator (traducteur assermenté)**, unless provided as **multilingual extracts**.
- **Apostille/legalisation:** **Not required** between France and Portugal (EU Regulation 2016/1191 + CIEC Convention).

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PORTUGAL

- **Civil marriage** at the **Conservatória do Registo Civil** is the **only legally valid** form; religious marriages must be registered at the Conservatória to take legal effect.
- **Eligibility**: both spouses must be at least **18 years old** and legally capable.
- **Marriage process (processo de casamento)**: the application must be submitted at the Civil Registry office.

Documents required (French spouse):

- **Passport or French ID card.**
- **Full birth certificate**, issued within **3 months**.
- **Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM)**, issued by the **French Consulate in Portugal**.
- **Certificate of residence (Atestado de Residência)** if domiciled in Portugal.
- **Proof of civil status** (attestation de célibat, divorce decree, or death certificate).

Procedure:

- Submit the **marriage application** at the Conservatória.
- Civil Registry verifies documents and may request an **interview/hearing**.
- Once approved, the authorisation is valid for **6 months**.
- Celebrate the **civil ceremony** before the Registrar.
- **Translations**: French documents must be translated into **Portuguese** by a **sworn translator (tradutor juramentado)**, unless provided as multilingual extracts.
- **Apostille/legalisation**: **Not required** within the EU (EU Regulation 2016/1191).

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Marrying in France (with a Portuguese citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
- **Portuguese spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (*Certidão de Nascimento*, ≤ 6 months) + **Certificate of No Impediment** (*Certificado de Capacidade Matrimonial*).
- **Proof of residence** in the French commune.
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **2–4 witnesses** with valid ID.
- **Translations:** Portuguese documents must be translated into **French** by a **sworn translator**, unless issued as a **multilingual EU extract**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. **Collect documents** in both countries (allow 4–6 weeks for certificates and translations).
2. Submit the **marriage application file** at the mairie.
3. Possible **pre-marriage interview (audition)**.
4. **Publication of banns** for **10 days** at the mairie.
5. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the mairie with 2–4 witnesses.
6. Receive the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.
7. Portuguese spouse registers the marriage in Portugal if needed.

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Marrying in Portugal (with a French citizen)

DOCUMENTS

- **Passports/IDs** for both spouses.
- **Portuguese spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (*Certidão de Nascimento*, ≤ 6 months).
- **French spouse:** recent **birth certificate** (≤ 3 months) + **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Portugal.
- **Certificate of residence (Atestado de Residência)** if domiciled in Portugal.
- **Proof of civil status** (single, divorced, widowed).
- If previously married → **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
- **Translations:** French documents must be translated into **Portuguese** by a **sworn translator (tradutor juramentado)**, unless issued in **multilingual format**.

STEPS & TIMELINE

1. Submit the **marriage application** at the **Conservatória do Registo Civil**.
2. Civil Registry opens a **marriage file (processo de casamento)**.
3. Documents verified, possible **interview/hearing** with both spouses.
4. Once approved, the authorisation is valid for **6 months**.
5. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the Conservatória or Town Hall.
6. Obtain the **Portuguese marriage certificate (Certidão de Casamento)**.
7. For recognition in France → request **transcription** at the **French Consulate in Portugal** or at the **SCEC Nantes**.
8. After transcription, receive the **French livret de famille**.

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Recognition in the other country

French marriage recognized in Portugal

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain official French marriage certificate (preferably a multilingual extract).	From the mairie where the marriage was celebrated.	Immediately after marriage.	Portuguese authorities accept multilingual extracts under EU law.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required (EU Regulation 2016/1191).	N/A	N/A	Documents circulate freely between FR-PT.
TRANSLATION	Only required if not provided in multilingual format.	Sworn Portuguese translator (tradutor juramentado).	Few days.	Multilingual extract avoids this step.
REGISTRATION IN PORTUGAL	Register French marriage in the Conservatória do Registo Civil .	Local Civil Registry office.	2–6 weeks.	Required for administrative rights, residence, and benefits in Portugal.

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Portuguese marriage recognized in France

REQUIREMENT	HOW TO PROVIDE	WHERE	TIMING	NOTES
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE	Obtain Portuguese marriage certificate (Certidão de Casamento) , preferably multilingual.	Issued by the Conservatória .	Immediately after marriage.	Multilingual extract avoids translation.
APOSTILLE / LEGALISATION	Not required (FR-PT under EU Reg. 2016/1191).	N/A	N/A	Apostille exemption applies.
TRANSLATION	Only required if no multilingual extract is presented.	Sworn French translator (traducteur assermenté) .	Few days.	Not needed with multilingual version.
TRANSCRIPTION IN FRANCE	Submit Portuguese certificate for transcription into French registers.	French Consulate in Portugal or SCEC Nantes .	1–3 months.	Mandatory to obtain a livret de famille and for official recognition in France.

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Special cases & red flags

- **CCAM is mandatory** → French citizens marrying in Portugal must obtain the **Certificat de Capacité à Mariage (CCAM)** from the French Consulate before the wedding. Without it, **transcription in France may be refused**.
- **Banns vs. processo de casamento** → In **France**, banns must be **published for 10 days**. In **Portugal**, the Civil Registry opens a **marriage process (processo de casamento)**, which must be approved before the ceremony.
- **Document validity** → France requires documents issued within **3 months**; Portugal allows up to **6 months**.
- **Translations** → France requires **sworn French translations** of Portuguese documents, while Portugal requires **sworn Portuguese translations (tradutores juramentados)** of French documents, unless multilingual EU extracts are provided.
- **Residency condition** → At least **one spouse must reside** in the commune (France) or provide proof of residence in Portugal (Atestado de Residência).
- **Delays** → In Portugal, the **marriage process** can take **several weeks** (or longer in big cities). Couples should start the process early.
 - **Immigration effects** →
 - Portuguese spouse in France → must apply for a **VLS-TS long-stay visa** and then a **Vie privée et familiale residence card**.
 - French spouse in Portugal → enjoys **EU free movement rights**, but must **register with the Junta de Freguesia / SEF** for residence.

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Checklists

FRANCE

1. Contact the **mairie** to confirm the **required documents**.
2. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a **recent French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
4. Obtain a **Portuguese birth certificate (Certidão de Nascimento)** (≤ 6 months).
5. Request a **Portuguese Certificate of No Impediment (Certificado de Capacidade Matrimonial)** from the **Conservatória do Registo Civil**.
6. Provide **proof of residence** in the French commune.
7. If previously married → include **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
8. Arrange **sworn French translations** of Portuguese documents, unless issued as **multilingual extracts**.
9. Submit the **marriage application file** at the mairie.
10. Attend the **pre-marriage interview (audition)** if required.
11. Ensure **publication of banns** for **10 days**.
12. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the mairie with **2–4 witnesses**.
13. Receive the **French marriage certificate** and **livret de famille**.

PORTUGAL

1. Contact the **Conservatória do Registo Civil** to open the **marriage process (processo de casamento)**.
2. Prepare **passports/IDs** for both spouses.
3. Obtain a **Portuguese birth certificate** (≤ 6 months).
4. Obtain a **French birth certificate** (≤ 3 months).
5. Request the **CCAM (Certificat de Capacité à Mariage)** from the French Consulate in Portugal.
6. Provide a **certificate of residence (Atestado de Residência)** if domiciled in Portugal.
7. Provide **proof of civil status** (attestation de célibat, divorce decree, or death certificate).
8. If previously married → include **divorce decree** or **death certificate**.
9. Arrange **sworn Portuguese translations (tradutores juramentados)** of French documents, unless issued as **multilingual extracts**.
10. Submit the **marriage file** to the Conservatória.
11. Attend an **interview/hearing** if requested.
12. Celebrate the **civil ceremony** at the Conservatória or Town Hall.
13. Obtain the **Portuguese marriage certificate (Certidão de Casamento)**.
14. For recognition in France → request **transcription** at the French Consulate or **SCEC Nantes**.
15. Receive the **French livret de famille**.

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Templates

This section provides **official resources and sample documents** commonly required :

Use the hyperlinks below to access the official template or instruction page.

1. France – Statutory Declaration / Attestation of Single Status

Official French self-declaration sometimes requested by mairies.

 [Access the Attestation sur l'honneur template \(Service-Public\)](#)

2. Portugal - Certificate of No Impediment

Issued by the **Portuguese Civil Registry (Conservatória do Registo Civil)** confirming eligibility to marry.

 irn.justica.gov.pt/organizar-o-casamento

3. France – Certificate of Capacity to Marry (CCAM)

Required for French citizens marrying in Italy, issued by the **French Embassy in Portugal**.

 pt.ambafrance.org/mariage-4629

4. France/Portugal – Sworn Translator Directories

To find official translators for sworn translations.

 service-public.fr/traducteurs

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Official Sources

TOPIC	AUTHORITY / URL	NOTES
GENERAL MARRIAGE IN FRANCE	Service-Public: service-public.fr/F930	Official French guidance on civil marriage (residence, banns, witnesses).
TRANSCRIPTION OF A FOREIGN MARRIAGE (FRANCE)	Service-Public: service-public.fr/F21614	How to obtain the CCAM and transcribe a Portuguese marriage into French registers.
LEGALISATION / APOSTILLE (FR-PT)	EUR-Lex: eur-lex.europa.eu/2016/1191	EU Regulation abolishing apostille for civil-status documents; introduces multilingual forms.
PORTUGAL — MARRIAGE PROCEDURES	IRN Portugal: irn.justica.gov.pt/organizar-o-casamento	Official Civil Registry guidance on the marriage process (processo de casamento) .
FRANCE — CCAM FOR MARRIAGE IN PORTUGAL	French Consulate in Portugal: pt.ambafrance.org/mariage-4629	Consular guidance for French citizens marrying in Portugal; mandatory CCAM requirement.

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Glossary & Notes

TERM	DEFINITION / NOTES
BANNS (FRANCE)	Public announcement of intended marriage posted at the mairie for 10 days before the wedding. Mandatory in France.
PROCESSO DE CASAMENTO (PORTUGAL)	The Portuguese marriage process opened at the Civil Registry (<i>Conservatória</i>). Includes document checks, possible interview, and approval valid for 6 months .
CCAM (CERTIFICAT DE CAPACITÉ À MARIAGE)	Certificate issued by the French Consulate in Portugal proving that a French citizen is legally free to marry. Mandatory for transcription in France.
CERTIFICADO DE CAPACIDADE MATRIMONIAL	Portuguese certificate of no impediment to marriage , issued by the Conservatória do Registo Civil for Portuguese citizens marrying abroad.
ATESTADO DE RESIDÊNCIA	Portuguese certificate of residence , issued by the Junta de Freguesia . Often required for marriage applications in Portugal.
MULTILINGUAL CIVIL-STATUS EXTRACTS	Birth, marriage, and death certificates issued under EU Regulation 2016/1191 and the CIEC Convention , accepted in both France and Portugal without apostille/legalisation.
TRANSCRIPTION	Process of recording a Portuguese marriage in French civil registers (via Consulate or SCEC Nantes) to obtain a livret de famille .
LIVRET DE FAMILLE	French family record book delivered after transcription. Required for official procedures (residence permits, visas, registering children).
SWORN TRANSLATOR	Traducteur assermenté in France or Tradutor juramentado in Portugal. Required if documents are not issued as multilingual extracts.

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Annexes

ANNEX	TITLE	FILE
MARRIAGE IN FRANCE WITH A FOREIGNER	Service-Public page explaining rules and required documents for marrying a foreign national in France.	service-public.fr/F930
MARRIAGE ABROAD – TRANSCRIPTION	Service-Public procedure for transcribing a Portuguese marriage into French registers.	service-public.fr/F21614
FRENCH CONSULATE IN PORTUGAL – MARRIAGE & CCAM	Guidance for French citizens marrying in Portugal (CCAM requirement).	pt.ambafrance.org/mariage-4629
PORTUGAL – ORGANIZAR O CASAMENTO	Official IRN Civil Registry guidance on opening a marriage process (processo de casamento) .	irn.justica.gov.pt/organizar-o-casamento
EU REGULATION 2016/1191	EU law abolishing apostilles and allowing multilingual civil-status forms.	eur-lex.europa.eu/2016/1191

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Legal Disclaimer & Thank You

This Cross-Border Marriage Kit has been carefully researched and compiled to provide practical guidance for international couples.

However, it does **not constitute legal advice**.

- Laws and procedures may change at any time.
- Requirements may vary depending on the specific **State** or **French municipality** involved.
- Always verify your situation directly with the **competent civil authorities**, embassies, or consulates before submitting documents.
- LexAtlas cannot be held liable for any administrative delays, changes in law, or outcomes arising from the use of this guide.

For complex or exceptional cases (previous marriages, immigration complications, name changes, adoption, or nationality issues), we strongly recommend consulting a qualified attorney or notary.

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