

Buying a Used Car In Portugal

By & copyright to Steve Robinson

7th January 2024

Most (but not all) car prices in Portugal are obscenely high compared to some other nearby European countries & as an example of that a brand new Toyota Landcruiser station-wagon in Portugal is almost 3 times the price of the same vehicle in the UK but the good news is that some bakkies/pick ups, double cabs & saloon cars with the rear seats removed & a dog guard like arrangement fitted are all classified as commercial vehicles & a good example of that is a brand new Toyota Hi-lux double cab here in Portugal is a similar price to the same vehicle in the UK & used prices are obviously related to new on a more or less pro rata basis. So if you can live with the inconveniences of a commercial vehicle you're going to get a much better deal with such a vehicle.

Another example of reasonably priced electric cars if you like them (and I do not) then a brand new (Chinese) BYD electric can (at the time of writing) be bought for slightly less than €30k & BYD are currently listed as the biggest manufacturer of electric cars in the world & overtook Tesla in that regard in January 2024.

<https://www.byd-auto.pt/>

If you buy from a dealer then he is legally obliged to give you a 1 year guarantee however, it should be noted that a branded, main dealer is usually much more likely to honour that guarantee than a dealer that isn't a branded main dealer & is rather just a side street used car sales set up. If a dealer offers you a shorter guarantee period or no guarantee or tells you his word is his bond & no written guarantee is necessary then he is breaking the law & you need to look elsewhere.

Annual road tax costs are significantly lower on vehicles that were registered here pre 2007(?) but as some vehicles have been imported & matriculated later in their lives, I suggest you check year of manufacture, year of matriculation & cost of annual road tax before you buy & also note that the annual road tax on vehicles that were imported/matriculated from other EU member states later on in the lives dropped significantly from 1st January 2020.

ACP are the national motoring organisation of Portugal & one of the many services they offer to members is a vehicle inspection before you buy & prices for such are available from them on request & on a broader note, ACP are a brilliant organisation to be a member of & offer all kinds of benefits most of us wouldn't expect including discounts of a significant number of products & services.

<https://www.acp.pt/inicio>

Note:

That truly good mechanics are in short supply here in Portugal simply because they can earn so much more elsewhere in the world so I'd suggest you look primarily at vehicles that don't have a lot of needless technology that might or rather, probably will, give problems later on & as a good example of that, I know 3 people who each spent €30k+ on technology laden cars & all 3 vehicles spend more time being fixed by the agents than they do being driven by the owners.

Vehicles here have varying toll classes so be sure to check what toll class the vehicle you're thinking of buying falls into & you can do that by visiting the Via Verde website (link below) & also be sure to read the info piece in the files section entitled 'Toll Roads, Road Tolls & Via Verde Machines'.

Also note that the UV light here almost eats paintwork, especially on older vehicles so don't be surprised when a lot of used cars here have severe paintwork damage but equally, corrosion is rarely an issue here as they don't have to salt the roads in winter.

If buying or selling a used Portuguese registered car in Portugal the change of ownership document is Documento Unico Explained in the files section of this group & the process is done at your local Conservatoria (Courthouse) where both parties (usually) need to be present & remember to check for any outstanding debts on the vehicle you are buying as when you buy the vehicle you also assume all outstanding debts as well.

Also note that it is illegal to buy, sell or even gift a foreign registered vehicle here & you will find a full explanation of that situation in Dispelling The Myths in the files section.

The links below will give you a good place to start your research including checking for outstanding debts on a vehicle you are considering buying:

<https://www.acp.pt/Inicio>

<https://www.carnext.com/pt-pt/>

<https://www.standvirtual.com/>

<https://www.olx.pt/carros-motos-e-barcos/carros/>

<https://www.olx.pt/carros-motos-e-barcos/carros/>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/594155977426130/?hc_location=ufi

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031092680284636/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1563422003968975/>

<https://www.byd-auto.pt/>

https://impostosobreveiculos.info/iuc/simulador-iuc/?fbclid=IwAR3xV3RYG_3OOeVV3TaeVtZSCkQbezd2n8-5mSkiYpA7xqLGv1kHATU_zHc#principal

http://www.imt-ip.pt/MatriculasCanceladas/matriculas.asp?fbclid=IwAR1bHb9IdaypWZC5YcrbXG32Xr7l0GrAHZ0kbMOa6TS3YrREwEQ_zucuMvk

https://www.automovelonline.mj.pt/AutoOnlineProd/?fbclid=IwAR0uQvItzUdP0zn_zOll4iSZeaJDjwhMtecdPlbzPLVmNpoZig2tdSSQ3EA

<http://www.imt-ip.pt/sites/IMTT/Portugues/Paginas/IMTHome.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2jO9AEmtQC9nViyOV9RdSXYNCI5G7dJJJh8SPUv9s3g8ccpiityIcPW7q>

<https://www.viaverde.pt/particulares>

<https://eportugal.gov.pt/en/inicio>

<https://imigrante.sef.pt/en/solicitar/trabalhar/art89-2/>

<https://vendas.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt/bens/consultaVendasCursoForm.action?tipoConsulta=01&fbclid=IwAR0RzfKXCMY-IkMv3fG9eaHPmMINGcYpWryktIwcIrH3cWCbnH9Aktetpwg>

Change of ownership document here:

https://irn.justica.gov.pt/Portals/33/Impressos/Ve%C3%ADculos/DUA_Final_2022.pdf?ver=PXuALAYjCafrQ0AUH2wDBA%3D%3D×tamp=1661164306604&fbclid=IwAR39fJK8UyFE9TvRWLAr9wd9U5xjHI-F1pKF_0YWv12XJfROo4a7bWutpjs