

TV, Phone Data & Internet Options In Portugal

By & copyright to Steve Robinson

6th July 2022

Please remember how important it is to stay on the right side of the law & please note the link at the bottom of this info piece should you need it.

Sky TV is currently not legally available in Portugal due to licencing issues & even if you get a Sky decoder from the UK or elsewhere, they will turn you off if/when they find out you're using a Sky Box in Portugal.

Satellite TV is dreadfully poor reception in most parts of the country unless you have a dish the size of Jodrell Bank & the local cable TV is also pretty dire so if you want good TV then you have to find another solution.

One solution is the (legal) IPTV over internet packages and they do work reasonably well most of the time & will give you a wide range of viewing options & channels & I'm sure that any member posting a question about that will attract a number of people offering to sell you their IPTV packages & you might also like to look for suppliers listed in the Trade & Business Directory in the files section of this group. However, be aware that some of the IPTV sellers or resellers tend to go out of business within a few months & when they do then so does your TV package in many cases so if you do go that option look for a long & properly established company & try not to pay too long upfront so a monthly rental deal is better than a one payment for the year etc.

Another option if you have a goodish internet connection is kodi.com + addons which allows you to watch pretty much anything you want on demand and all completely free & as far as I can ascertain, not (currently) illegal but some of the add ons will fail from time to time & then you need to do an online search to find the newest & best replacements & you will need a goodish internet connection of at least 10 Mbps or so for any of the IPTV, Kodi or similar options.

Yet another option is www.netflix.com which is currently available for about €10 per month which allows you to view on 2 separate devices & has endless choice of viewing & also Apple TV <https://tv.apple.com/> & Amazon Prime TV & Video plus of course, good old <https://www.youtube.com/>

Where phone data is concerned, you probably won't need much if you have a good internet connection at home as pretty much all of the larger shops & cafes, restaurants & pubs etc all have free wifi internet available & the only times you'll use significant amounts of data will be when you're driving & using Google or Apple Maps or similar & I have found one of the best companies for phone SIM cards & data is Lyca who offer umpteen options for both contracts & simple PAYG calls & data bundles at brilliantly good prices however check the bundle offers carefully as at the time of writing 1 gig can be bought for €5 but elevate that cost to €10 & it gives you 15 gigs so the more you buy the better deal you get.

<https://www.lycamobile.pt/en/>

Which brings us to internet connections themselves which vary immensely according to area. Portugal is currently rolling out really good fibre optic internet connections & in my little village in the central zone we are currently getting about 100 Mbps on our unlimited fibre optic internet connection & we were recently offered 200 Mbps.

However, not all areas are as lucky as we are & some have to put up with ADSL, MiFi mobile hotspot or in some cases, satellite internet connections & if you need to explore that option just ask on the group as we have several members who are in that business & will be able to advise you.

Costs vary but as a guideline, we currently pay about €40 per month for unlimited fibre optic internet & phone land line.

A relatively new option is the Star-Sat product which is part of the Elon Musk empire which although relatively expensive at about €100 per month plus a one off charge for delivery & installation is relatively fast although it should be noted will (like most if not all other satellite options) be prone to losing connection in bad weather due to cloud cover.

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