

Cost Of Living In Portugal

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One of the first things potential immigrants considering making Portugal their new home ask is how much will it cost to live there & it's not easy to answer that as Portugal varies immensely not only in terrain & climate but also in cost of living prices.

In many parts of the country such as will be found in the central & northern zones you can buy a smallish but reasonably comfortable 1 or 2 bedroom cottage with off street parking for about €60k & upwards but equally, you can pay several million Euros for a palatial villa in the Algarve. Or you can rent a comfortable apartment in the central or northern zones for €600 per month + utilities but equally you can pay several times that per WEEK for that same palatial Algarve villa I mentioned.

Equally, you can choose to buy your fruit & vegetable etc in a local market where in a good season you can pay just €1/kilo for freshly picked cherries, less than €1 kilo for cabbage or spuds or €2-3/kilo for chicken or pork or €15/kilo (or more) for a beefsteak.

When dining out, you can find plenty of small, family cafes & restaurants (where you'll often find the locals eating) where you can buy a 3 course lunch with coffee & a carafe of local wine for €10 - 15 per person (even in Lisbon) or you can pay €80 per person in the more upmarket (often touristy) establishments.

On the subject of wine, I can buy 5 litres of reasonably good, locally made red wine for €5 which is similar to a South African Shiraz or you can spend €20 & more on a French wine.

Cars can also be an extremely variable expense & whilst you can buy an old puddle jumper for a couple of thousand Euros you can spend many times that for a newer, more technically refined car & my advice on that would be not to get too carried away because the more expensive the car, the more technology it'll have on it & the more technology you have, the more technology you have to go wrong & really good mechanics here are almost as rare as diamond studded unicorns.

We often see comments on social media saying the cost of heating is super expensive here & to some extent that is true & in my area we have seen the cost of wood heating pellets rise from about €3.99 per 15 kg sack to €10.99 from one winter to the next & that in turn means we need to look at ways to make full use of the energy we use & the best way to do that is to ensure the space we are trying to heat is as well insulated as it can possibly be as without that you will lose the heat as fast as you can generate it & you'll find more on that subject in 'Dealing With The Climate & Mould Issues In Portugal' in the files section of this group.

Also bear in mind that the minimum wage at time of writing is €850 per calendar month & if you want to live cheap, then the answer is to live like a local & shop/dine where the locals do.

The link below will also be a reasonably good guide but don't expect it to be 110% accurate.
<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>