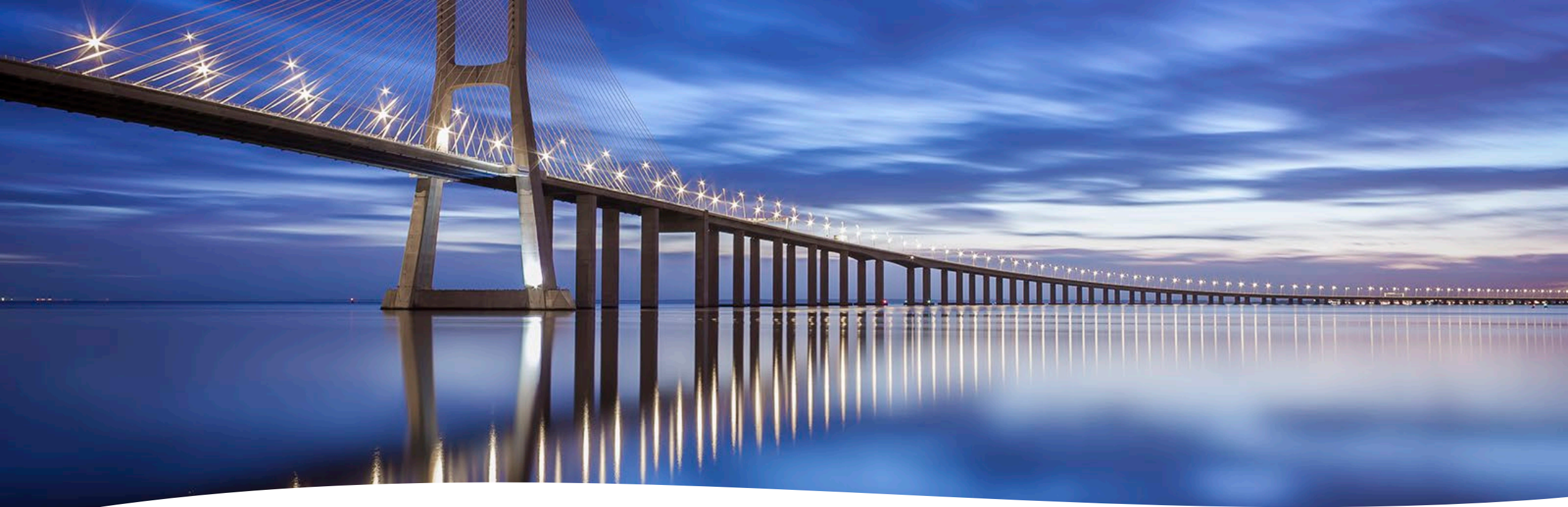




PORTUGAL

BY Calum Beatty



Facts about Portugal

- Portugal's population is 10.28 million.
- Its Capital City is Lisbon.
- Its area 35,556 square miles long.
- Portugal is the Westernmost country of the European mainland.
- Ferdinand Magellen was a Portuguese explorer who is said to have led the first expedition to circumnavigate the world.
- Portugal is named after its 2nd largest city Porto.
- The Vasco Da Gama Bridge is the largest bridge in Europe. It is 17.2 km long.



The Portuguese Empire

- Established in the 12th century, Portugal is one of the world's oldest countries. The country's land boundaries have remained almost unchanged since the 13th century.
- During this time, Portugal was an extremely powerful empire, mostly due to its naval explorations. It had land in Africa, South America, Asia, and Oceania.
- As the Dutch, English, and French surrounded or conquered Portuguese trading posts, the country lost much of its wealth and power.

Vasco Da Gama

Vasco Da Gama is one of Portugal's most famous historical figures. He was born in Sines, Portugal, but his exact date of birth is unknown.

On the 4th of July 1497 he left Lisbon with four ships: The Sao Gabriel, The Sao Rafael, The Berrio and a storage ship of unknown name.

He intended that his ships sailed to India.

No European explorer sailed further than South Africa, but Da Gama sailed around the bottom of the African continent and by January, had reached modern day Mozambique, on the East African coast.



Vasco Da Gama

Mozambique was controlled by Arabs because it was part of the Indian Ocean's network of trade. They discovered that Da Gama's ships were not muslim so let the crew continue North to Kenya.

There Da Gama hired a pilot from India. The pilot brought the Portuguese crew to the city of Calicut.

On May 20th 1498 Vasco Da Gama was in danger because of a conflict with the ruler of Calicut. He returned to Portugal in September 1499. A few of his Portuguese crew members stayed at Calicut.



Vasco Da Gama

In 1502 Vasco Da Gama went on his next trip after finding out that the people of Calicut killed the Portuguese he had left behind. During his trip he attacked any Arab or Indian ships he could find in The Indian Ocean.

He made it to Calicut and took over that city capturing much wealth. This made the King of Portugal very happy with him.

On Vasco Da Gama's last trip in 1524 he sailed back to Calicut to be Governor. He died soon after he got there on Christmas Eve.



Portugal is/has the world's....

- The world's oldest bookstore is in Lisbon. It was established in 1732.
- One of the world's oldest Universities is in Portugal. The Portuguese academics established the university in 1290. It is called Coimbra.
- Largest cork producer. Make sure to head to a street market to shop for cork coasters and cork handbags.





Economy

- Portugal is one of the poorest countries in Western Europe and has one of the lowest incomes per person among the European Union member states.
- In comparison to many other countries around the world, however, Portugal is doing well. It's often considered "the poorest of the rich countries."
- Unemployment in Portugal is at about 8%. Portugal's currency is the Euro.
- Portugal's main industries are fishing, oil, cement, plastic products, textiles, construction, steel, footwear, leather, and tourism.



Tourism

Portugal is one of the most popular places to visit in Europe due to its warm climate, great beaches and friendly locals. It also has a great history.

Lisbon is Portugal's capital city and one of the most popular places for tourists.

Porto is Portugal's 2nd biggest city and is very similar to Lisbon. Porto is famous for Portugal's national drink Port wine.

Algarve is one of the best places to mix warm weather. It has great beaches and amazing scenery. Portugal has so much to see it's no wonder it is one of the most popular places to visit.

Famous Footballers

- Cristiano Ronaldo is probably the most famous footballer and most famous person from Portugal. Ronaldo left school at the age of 14 to play football professionally. While in school Ronaldo actually threw a chair at his teacher!
- José Mourinho has league trophies in each of the four countries he managed Portugal, Italy, Spain and England. He has also won the Champions League twice!





Famous Footballers

- Luís Figo is a retired football player who played for Portugal. He played Midfielder for Sporting CP, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Inter Milan before retiring on the 31 of May 2009. Figo used to play with Barcelona before signing to Real Madrid which caused great havoc.
- Eusébio is considered by many people to be the greatest player of all time; he is a retired Portuguese player who played striker. During his career he scored 733 goals in 745 matches!



Food & Drink

- The secret recipe for Pastéis de Nata{custard tart}.The Portuguese have kept the original recipe for this delicious food a secret since the 19th Century. Make sure to visit the bakery of Belém to get a taste of this food.
- Piri Piri originated in Portugal. We all better be thankful to Portugal to give us this beautiful sauce.
- Port Wine is Portugal's most famous export and its national drink. Produced exclusively in Douro valley the area is the third oldest protected wine region in the world. The wine became very popular with the English in the 18th Century.



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