

12-Month and First 30 Days Checklists

The long runway, then the first month on the ground, in order.

Two checklists. The first covers the year before you go, so nothing important gets left to the last minute. The second covers your first thirty days in Portugal, when everything feels new at once. Tick as you go and note the date.

The 12-month countdown

12 to 9 months before

- ☐ Choose your visa route and confirm you meet it
- ☐ Start saving towards your buffer, on top of the visa threshold
- ☐ Shortlist regions and plan a scouting visit
- ☐ Begin learning basic Portuguese

9 to 6 months before

- ☐ Visit your shortlisted regions if you can
- ☐ Get your NIF (tax number), via a representative if needed
- ☐ Open a Portuguese bank account
- ☐ Gather documents: passport, certificates, proof of income

6 to 3 months before

- ☐ Request your criminal record certificate and get it apostilled
- ☐ Book your visa appointment at the consulate or VFS
- ☐ Sort travel and health insurance for the first months
- ☐ Decide what you are shipping, selling or storing

3 to 1 months before

- ☐ Submit your visa application
- ☐ Book your first accommodation in Portugal
- ☐ Tell your bank and tax office you are moving
- ☐ Arrange pet travel and paperwork if needed

The final month

- ☐ Confirm flights and first-night logistics
- ☐ Copy and pack all key documents together
- ☐ Set up mail forwarding and close or move utilities
- ☐ Say your goodbyes properly

Your first 30 days

- ☐ Activate your phone with a Portuguese SIM or plan

☐ Confirm your NIF and bank are working for daily life

☐ Set up electricity, water and home internet

☐ Confirm your private health insurance is active

☐ Register your address if your area requires it

☐ Find your nearest health centre, pharmacy and supermarket

☐ Book your AIMA residency appointment

☐ Learn your neighbourhood on foot, and start saying hello
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NOTES AND ANYTHING I AM WAITING ON