

Golden visa - Portugal



What is Portugal's Golden Visa?

Portugal's Golden Visa program, also known as a residence permit for investment activity (ARI), is a residence through investment scheme aimed at non-European Union citizens.

Benefits: What are the benefits of Portugal's Golden Visa?

- Traveling to other countries without a visa - you can travel freely throughout Europe without an additional visa. After five years, if you decide to obtain Portuguese citizenship, you can apply for a Portuguese passport.
- Living, working and studying - if you decide to live in Portugal full-time with this permit, you must have health insurance.



- Family Reunification - As the main applicant, you can extend the golden visa to your family members. The process takes place jointly for the main applicant and their dependents. The following family members can apply together with the main applicant: spouse; children under 18; dependent children under 26, provided they are full-time students and are not married; parents of the main applicant, if they are over 65.

- Citizenship and Passport - After 5 years of Golden Visa, you can apply for Portuguese citizenship. To do this, you must not have any outstanding tax payments in Portugal, you must have a clean criminal record in Portugal and in your country of origin, and you must take and pass a basic Portuguese language test.
- Tax benefits - The Golden Visa program does not entail any tax liability for its applicants, unless they spend more than 183 days a year in Portugal. If you do, you will become a tax resident in Portugal. Portugal has a favorable tax regime for foreigners who consider moving and becoming tax residents in Portugal. Through the Non-Habitual Resident (NHR) program, there is a certain tax exemption for the first ten years of residence.

Who is eligible for a Golden Visa?

- Any non-EU / EEA / Swiss citizen can apply for Portugal's Golden Visa;
- The main applicant must be at least 18 years old and have no criminal record in their country of origin or in Portugal. The funds for the investment must come from outside Portugal;
- To qualify for the program, you will have to make a minimum investment. The investment categories were changed in October 2023. The program no longer accepts the purchase of real estate and real estate-related funds. However, some funds remain an eligible investment, such as venture capital funds, as well as capital transfers, company start-ups and donations.



What are the requirements to obtain the Golden Visa?

The Golden Visa program has a fairly low stay requirement. Portugal requires that Golden Visa residents spend a minimum of seven days a year in the country.

	Validity period	Residence Requirement
VG Initial Residence Permit	Two (2) years	Fourteen (14) days within two years
Subsequent Residence Permits for VG	Three (3) years	Twenty-one (21) days within three years

The applicant must provide proof that they have invested the minimum amount required. The main applicant must maintain the investment for as long as they and their family have Golden Visa residency status.

When you become a permanent resident or Portuguese citizen, the investment no longer needs to be maintained, so you can liquidate any investment you have made.

Required documents:

- Copy of passport or other government-issued travel document;
- Proof of the investment made by the main applicant;
- Proof of health insurance;
- Criminal record of current country of residence;
- Completed form authorizing SEF to access the criminal record in Portugal;
- A declaration of compliance with the minimum investment requirements for the required period of five years;
- Documents proving that there are no debts with the Tax Authority and Social Security;
- Receipt of payment of the application to ARI.

Legalization of documents:

All previous documents issued by a non-Portuguese entity need to be legalized. Legalization is done through an apostille if the country in question is part of the Hague Convention.

Document translation:

Any original document that is not in Portuguese will need to be translated into Portuguese and certified. Certification is usually carried out by a notary.



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