

# POLAND VS. PORTUGAL - COMPARISON

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## 1. Firstly I'm going to describe both countries

Portugal - a country with a rich history of geographical expeditions and discoveries - lies on the Iberian Peninsula, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Portugal's history has had a huge impact on the culture of the country: architecture and art have Mauritanian and Oriental influences.

For over three thousand years through the territory of today's Portugal swept various civilizations, culture of the Phoenicians, Greeks, Celts, Carthaginians, Romans and Arabs have left their mark there. In the fifteenth century, intrepid Portuguese sailors, under the command of Vasco da Gama discovered new territories, contributing to flourishing overseas possessions of Portugal.



Polish emblem - the white eagle - works on the political map symbols of Europe for over a thousand years. Polish name comes from Polan tribe, inhabiting present-day Poland in the early Middle Ages. At the end of the ninth and tenth century they united almost the entire basin of the Oder and Vistula.

A milestone was the adoption of Christianity in the Western Rite in 966 by Prince Mieszko I. Since that time, Poland has found itself permanently in the circle of Western civilization, as well as the Latin alphabet in a circle.

The young Polish state quickly became a partner for its neighbors. In 1000, to Gniezno, at that time the Polish capital, came the Roman Emperor Otto III in a German Nation pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Adalbert. The event was not only religious in nature but

political. The emperor sought to unite the Christian world, which was also part of the Polish state. Many historians discern in the concept of a thousand years ago the idea of a united Europe nucleus.

Rapid economic development and civilization of medieval Polish state was invested in the German law, cities and brought religious orders into Poland. The cities - Krakow, Poznan, Gniezno, Torun, Gdansk, Wroclaw - Gothic churches were created, developed trade and medieval art.



## 2. Economy

Portugal is one of the slowest growing countries in Europe. It is worth noting that, in 2003, Portugal reported a decline in GDP, and its growth in 2006 of 1.3% was not only the lowest in the European Union, but also in Europe. Portugal's currency is the euro and this is possibly one of the reasons of the current crisis the country is living.



Poland is the sixth economy in the European Union and the 20th economy in the world. We didn't have crisis because we don't have euro yet and zloty is still quite a strong currency. I noticed that a lot of Portuguese young people cannot find a job, I thought it was a problem in Poland but now I think here the situation is definitely worse. In big cities in Poland like Warsaw, Krakow or Wroclaw you can find a job if you really want to - even if you are a student.



*20 polish zlotys*

### **3. Demography**

According to the latest census, Portugal's inhabitants are close to 10.5 millions. Most of the population is over 35 years of age, a sign that Portugal's population is rather old. Portugal's view on immigrants is really different from Poland's. Portugal has almost half a million immigrants whereas Poland's numbers are the same, the population being almost four times bigger. We are a really homogeneous country. 96% of us declared Polish nationality, 1.23% (471.5 thousand persons) declared their belonging to different nationalities, and 2.03% of the population (774.9 thousand persons) did not specify their ethnic affiliation.

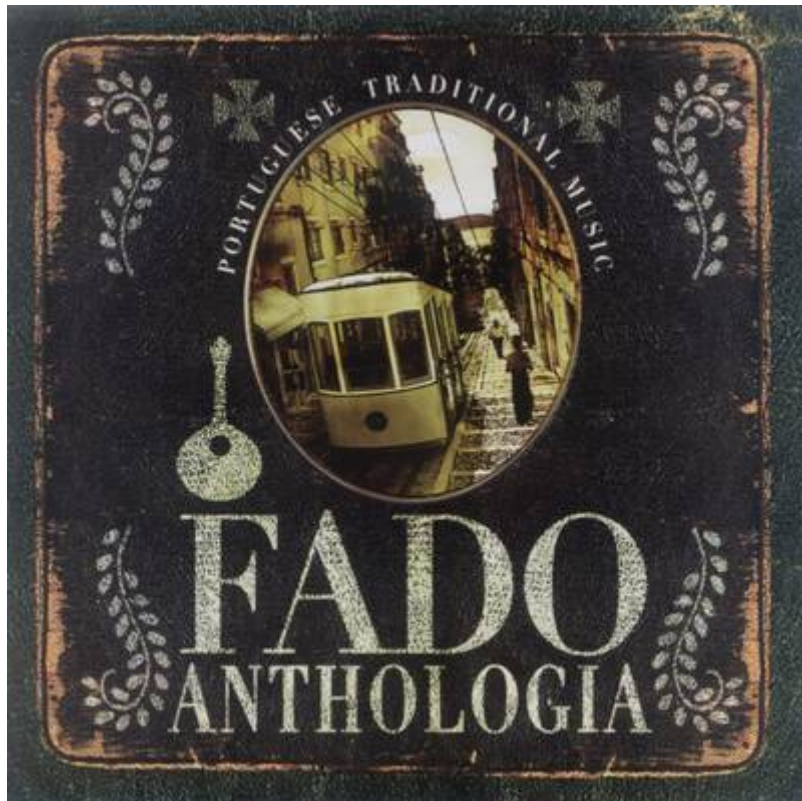
Most immigrants living in Portugal come from former Portuguese colonies. Most Portuguese people that leave the country choose France, Brazil and Angola as their destinations. As for Polish people who decide to leave their country, Great Britain, United States and Italy are the countries they choose the most.

### **4. Music**

Music is very important for Portuguese people, not only national but international as well.

Portugal's most famous and typical music is called Fado. It is a genre about the feelings that run through your heart, about something called "saudade". The most famous artists are the late Amália Rodrigues and more recently Mariza and Carminho. Portugal also has typical regional music like "folclore".

Portugal's most internationally known bands are: Buraka som Sistema, The Gift and Blasted Mechanism. Portugal has also very talented solo artists like David Fonseca, Rui Veloso, and Pedro Abrunhosa. Portugal is also famous for hosting amazing summer festivals like: Super Bock Super Rock, Rock in Rio Lisboa, Optimus Alive, Creamfields and for always bringing the world's top DJs for Sunset/Beach parties.



Poles are proud of their composers: Fryderyk Chopin, Karol Szymanowski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Zbigniew Preisner, Wojciech Kilar, Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The top Polish bands are mostly rock band like: Coma, Myslovitz, Riverside, Kazik and we also have famous pop musicians – Maryla Rodowicz, Krzysztof Krawczyk, Doda or Zakopower. We also have summer festivals: Przystanek Woodstock, Off Festival, Open'er Festival, Orange Warsaw Festival, Sopot Hit Festival, Opole Festival or Rawa Blues Festival, to which people come from all over Europe.

## 5. Cuisine

Portuguese cuisine is characterized by diversity. Easy access to the sea guaranteed wealth of fish and shellfish, which are bases of the dishes from the coastal regions, while the central part of the country is dominated by meat and cheese. The national dish of Portugal is "bacalhau", salted and dried cod, which apparently can be prepared in 365 ways, as much as there are days in the year. Each region has its own unique way of preparing it. Another equally popular dish is "sardinhas grelhadas" (Portuguese for grilled sardines).

Some cities have typical dishes, for instance in Porto you have "francesinha" - which is by far the dish I liked most during my stay here! 😊



Most Polish dishes include pierogies, stuffed cabbage, pork chops, stew, meat jelly, pork knuckle, soup (beetroot soup, chicken soup, tomato soup, mushroom soup), cabbage dishes and potatoes, bread (rye bread, wheat), pastries, vegetables, fruits (apples, pears, various berries, currants), cottage cheese, and all kinds of meat (especially pork, chicken and beef), prepared in various ways, and to a lesser extent, marine and freshwater fish. Polish specific dessert is "faworki". Also popular are the pastries, including plantain, poppy cake, gingerbread or doughnuts. Last one just like here in Porto.

We are eating greasy and spicy food to survive cold winters and autumns. A popular drink is tea, often drunk with a slice of lemon and sweetened with sugar. For my Portuguese friends it was shocking that I can drink this hot tea with food instead of water, juice, ice tea or wine (which is not very popular in Poland). Among the alcoholic beverages vodka was propelled from cereals and potatoes ousted former common mead. Beer, hops beer in Poland, is a traditional and common drink. On Sundays, in almost every polish house people eat "kotlet schabowy" – traditional dish:



## 6. Climate and Culture

Poland lies in zone of the transitional warm temperate climate. Portugal is located in the Mediterranean climate zone of the ocean. I heard that Portugal is the country with greatest number of sunny days per year. In Poland most days are grey (excluding summer and some days in spring).

I think this is a main reason for different cultures. Portuguese people are more open – minded, they are smiling very often, and they are welcoming, warm and carefree. I always hear here: “Enjoy your life!” In Poland we can have fun too, but it is really different. Most of the time we are very stressed about work or school. And we are more serious too. It is not very easy to find a person smiling on the street just like this. But when we have vacations we forget about everything and we just have fun. I noticed Portuguese people are more expressive, but this is positive for me.

In Poland we have snow every winter, here this is not very common (only in some parts of Portugal) and we really like this season. Anyway I am going to miss Portuguese sun so much, I hope I will come back here soon!

In Poland the average annual temperature ranges from more than 9 °C...

Average monthly air temperature in Portugal is as follows:

- January 5 ° C and in July 29 ° C in the interior of the country,
- January 8 ° C and in July 20 ° C the northern coast,
- January 11 ° C and in July 26 ° C South Coast.



*I was never in the south of Portugal and I really regret it, maybe next year? 😊*

## **7. Sport**

Portugal's national sport is football, although different sports are also part of the Portuguese tradition i.e. basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics. Portuguese football players are known for being talented and Portugal already has two players that won the best player in the world award: Luís Figo and Cristiano Ronaldo. The world's best coach is also Portuguese - José Mourinho.



*Pride of Portuguese supporters*





*Polish people love Cristiano Ronaldo, he is hero that's why even our best football player is compared to him. The title of the above image is "Robert Lewandowski – our Polish Cristiano Ronaldo"*

Football is so important that the country stops to watch the national team playing in major competitions or when Portuguese clubs win a title celebration go on for days. The biggest sports clubs in Portugal are: SL Benfica (Sport Lisboa e Benfica), FC Porto (Futebol Clube do Porto) and Sporting CP (Sporting Clube de Portugal). These clubs are often referred to as the "Os três grandes". Sporting Clube de Portugal is also the second club in the world with more titles in every sport, just behind FC Barcelona. Benfica is the club with the biggest number of associates in the world. As for FC Porto, it is the most successful Portuguese club when it comes to football.



vs.



In Poland we also have two football clubs in capital of our country. They hate each other and they fight in every occasion. This is Legia Warszawa and Polonia Warszawa. In another city – Krakow – we have Wisla Krakow and everyone loves this club. Just like FC Porto here in Portugal. Football is the national sport in Poland too, no one understands why, because we are very weak in this sport. I think love to this sport is

stronger than this. The most successful in this discipline is the Polish national football team in the 70s and the early 80s, which in the World Cup Football won 3rd place. Now it's so much worse, but we are still supporting our time watching matches and drinking vodka or beer. Just like here!



vs.



In recent years ski jumping gained in importance thanks to the success of Adam Malysz, Formula 1 because of Robert Kubica, handball because of the success of the Polish national team for the two World Championships in 2007 and 2009, as well as swimming through successes such as Otylia Jędrzejczak and Paweł Korzeniowski.



*I really like football that's why i had to go to the stadium in Portugal. It is me in Lisbon during the Sporting's match in Estádio José De Alvalade ☺*

**By doing this work I used help of my Portuguese friends, my own experiences, and a few websites:**

- [www.odyssei.com](http://www.odyssei.com)
- <http://encyklopedia.pwn.pl~>
- [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sport\\_w\\_Polsce](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sport_w_Polsce)
- [http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/portugal/index\\_pl.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/portugal/index_pl.htm)