

Money

What is the currency in Portugal?

The official currency of Portugal is the euro. Tourists who are not familiar with this currency must keep in mind the subunits refer to 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and they come in coins. Coins also refer to 1 and 2 euro coins. Banknotes refer to 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euro bills.

How much money will I need?

Ask yourself: How many meals will I need to buy? World Youth Day provides basic meals for the week, but not breakfast if you have lodging other than what is provided by WYD/JMJ Youth. Local food-stall or cafe meals will cost from \$6-10 USD depending on what you get and how much you buy. A "finer" eatery may cost around \$10-\$15 USD. Tally that up and set your allowance for souvenirs and gifts. The amount needed will vary by tastes and spending habits; but roughly \$200 for the basic itinerary should be more than enough!

Can I use a credit or debit card?

Most major credit cards are widely accepted and recommended but consult with your credit or debit card bank about the foreign exchange transaction fees charged for using your card in Portugal. MasterCard and Visa are the most commonly-accepted cards, but you can use American Express in some places. Note that outside of the city, as well as at newspaper stands, street food vendors, and smaller markets, your credit and debit cards will be of little help.

There are banks located throughout the country that are open Monday through Saturday. During the workweek, banks are usually open from 8 AM to 3 PM, although they tend to have shorter hours on Saturday. ATMs are equally available and are definitely the easiest way to get cash. ATMs generally accept most types of credit and debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Cirrus, Plus) and will charge a service fee, usually around \$5. The maximum amount that you can withdraw at one time depends on the bank, though it's typically around \$500.

Credit cards are a good safety net for emergencies. Be sure to call your credit card company before you leave home to let them know your travel plans. This will prevent the company from putting a security hold on your card. It is recommended to check with your bank about what types of fees may be imposed when using a US credit card.

Where should I stash my cash?

JMJ Youth recommends that everyone use a money belt. Your money belt will be worn under your pants and only comes off when you shower. (Around-the-neck holders tend to be bulky and hot and end up being worn outside the clothing which is not helpful at all.) Your money belt should hold credit/debit cards, your passport, other documentation, and larger amounts of cash. We recommend you keep a small amount of cash in a safe, but more accessible place such as your sock or front pocket. Some hotels have safes available for your valuables. We recommended you keep your passport there.

When/Where can I change money?

If you are coming from any country outside the European Union, you will need to exchange currency to Euros. We highly recommend you do so *before* going abroad. Many banks offer currency exchange to their customers. You may be able to order currency at a branch location or by phone or online for pickup at a branch. Sometimes this service carries a fee, but it is much more convenient than having every person in your group exchange at an airport kiosk (which also will have high fees as well as long lines!).

Do they tip in Portugal? How much?

Tipping 5% - 10% maximum in restaurants is standard, although tipping is only done if you are happy with the service. No tip is expected for a cup of coffee or a drink, although some people will leave the change rounding up from the nearest Euro. For tapas or a sandwich in a bar, the change from the nearest Euro is sufficient (as a note, bars in Europe are like sandwich shops).

It is not customary to tip taxi drivers.

Is there a guideline for tipping bus drivers and guides?

If you are traveling with JMJ Youth, the official pilgrimage provider of WorldYouthDay.com, the guides do not expect – but may appreciate – tips. If you are exceptionally pleased, \$1 USD per person per day is customary. For private bus transfers, \$0.50 to \$1 USD per person is typical.