

Personal Fit Score

The one-decimal ratings use a five-flag scale to show how well each country lines up with your questionnaire answers. They are not judgments about which country is better in general. Spain's 3.4 / 5 flags and Portugal's 3.5 / 5 flags are close enough that the difference should be read as a slight lean, not a decisive result.

The gap stays narrow because most of your heavily emphasized priorities do not clearly separate the countries. Spain and Portugal both look strong for overall quality of life, safety, walkability, climate fit, and broad healthcare quality. Both also create meaningful bureaucracy and cross-border tax questions. Portugal gains ground mainly where the available cost comparison and newcomer experience favor it, while Spain recovers ground through your Spanish ability and the possible importance of your spouse's Spanish birth connection.

The largest score drivers

Driver	Spain	Portugal	Effect on the ratings
Monthly cost pressure	Higher planning estimate, especially for housing and utilities	Lower planning estimate overall	This is Portugal's largest advantage because lowering living costs is a major reason for your move.
Language and day-to-day adjustment	Your Spanish ability could substantially reduce ordinary language friction	English is generally easier for newcomers, but Portuguese would still matter for deeper integration and administration	Portugal has the broader newcomer advantage, but your personal language profile makes this much closer than it would be for an English-only household.
Safety, healthcare, walkability, and quality of life	Strong overall fit	Strong overall fit	These important ties keep either country from pulling far ahead.
Household legal status	Several ordinary residence routes appear worth investigating, and your spouse's Spanish birth may become important if it leads to a usable legal status	Several remote-work and passive-income routes also appear worth investigating	The present ratings do not assume that the Spanish birth connection creates citizenship, residence, or dependent rights. Confirming such rights could materially improve Spain's position.

Driver	Spain	Portugal	Effect on the ratings
Newcomer and passive-income fit	Viable possibilities, but potentially more language and administrative friction	Slightly easier general landing and a modest advantage for passive-income circumstances	This helps Portugal, although it does not establish that your household qualifies for a particular route.

Why confidence is limited

The score is strongest where the countries consistently look alike: both broadly fit your preferences for a safe, walkable, warm European setting with good healthcare and a high quality of life. It is less reliable where national averages must stand in for your eventual location, housing arrangement, insurance choice, and household legal status.

Medication continuity creates the most important healthcare uncertainty. Although no specific medication category was identified, the compiled profile marks continuity as potentially critical, so neither country's rating should be treated as medically settled until the exact medication and formulation, lawful import rules, local availability, prescribing and refill continuity, substitution risk, specialist access, and insurance treatment are checked in both countries. A lower healthcare cost estimate for Portugal does not answer those questions or prove that Portugal is medically better.

The family-status question could also move the result. Your marriage will need to be recognized for the residence route actually used, including whether one adult can anchor the other and your child, or whether separate qualifications are required. Separately, your spouse's Spanish birth record and current nationality or citizenship status should be confirmed through the relevant Spanish civil registry or consulate; birth in Spain alone should not be treated as proof of a present legal right.

A practical hypothetical shows why the ratings are so sensitive. Imagine a married household that confirms an easy family route in Spain through one spouse, can use Spanish confidently, and finds suitable housing within budget. Spain's current cost disadvantage could become less important. If that same household instead has to qualify through ordinary residence rules in both countries and finds comparable homes noticeably cheaper in Portugal, Portugal's lead would become more meaningful.

What could change the result

The ratings could move most if:

Actual housing, insurance, schooling, and pet-related costs differ from the national planning estimates.

Your spouse's Spanish birth connection produces a usable citizenship or family-residence route, or proves legally irrelevant.

One country's residence category fits your mix of investment income, remote work, self-employment, marriage, and dependent child more cleanly.

Medication access or private insurance works materially better in one country.

Cross-border tax review changes the amount of income you can realistically spend in either country.

Political and institutional stability currently supports similar confidence in both countries rather than creating a meaningful gap. That is helpful for long-term planning, but future changes to housing, tax, or foreign-resident rules could still affect the assumptions behind either rating.

Another person could receive a different result from the same two countries. Someone who speaks only English and places less weight on Spanish cultural familiarity might lean more toward Portugal, while someone with confirmed Spanish family rights or a strong preference for Spanish-language daily life might rate Spain more highly. Use these ratings to identify the few questions most likely to change your decision, not as an instruction to choose based on a tenth of a flag.