Portugal

Instructions. Read the following text. Then, in the chart below, write one relevant aspect of this country for each category: religion, music, and daily life.

Religion

Some ninth-tenths of Portugal's citizens are Roman Catholic. Regular attendance at mass, however, has declined in the cities and larger towns, particularly in the south. Less than 2 percent of the population is Protestant, with Anglicans and Methodists the oldest and largest denominations. In the late 20th century, fundamentalist and Evangelical churches grew in popularity, though the number of their adherents remained quite small. The Jewish population of Portugal is also tiny, as Jews were forced to convert or emigrate during the Inquisition in the late 15th century.

Music

Cultural centres such as the Belém Cultural Centre and the Culturgest, both in Lisbon, and commercial sponsorship have expanded opportunities for major concerts. Madredeus is among the most successful popular music groups. Singer Dulce Pontes is also widely admired, and Carlos Paredes is considered by many to have been Portugal's finest guitarist. Folk music and dancing and the traditional fado remain the country's fundamental forms of musical expression. Younger fadistas such as Mariza, Katia Guerreiro, and Cristina Branco gained an international audience in the early 21st century.

Daily Life

Urban centres provide a range of entertainment, and fairs and markets are highlights of social gatherings. A long tradition of dancing and singing continues among the Portuguese. Nearly every village has its own terreiro, or dance floor, usually constructed of concrete, though in some places it is still made of beaten earth. Each region has its own style of dances and songs; most traditional songs are of a slower rhythm than those in Spain. In the countryside the staple diet is one of fish, vegetables, and fruit. Although Portugal's waters abound with fresh fish, the dried salted codfish known as bacalhau, now often imported, is considered the national dish.

Religion	Music	Daily Life

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