

PCS to Portugal checklist

<https://nextbaseguide.com/guides/pcs-to-portugal/>

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When you have orders

- ☐ Contact the transportation office at your current installation as soon as you have orders. That office helps with entitlements, the household-goods shipment, and problems with the moving company. Military OneSource (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/living-oconus/a-service-family-checklist-for-moving-oconus/>).
- ☐ Book and track the shipment in the Defense Personal Property System (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-pcs/moving-personal-property/>).
- ☐ The 2025 Lajes packet says the tour is unaccompanied for military members and U.S. civilians. Families who come at their own cost need a dependent visa exemption to stay more than 90 days. Lajes sponsorship packet (<https://www.ramstein.af.mil/Portals/6/LAJES/Lajes%20Field%20Sponsorship%20Info%20Packet%20-%20CAO%2013%20Jan%202025.pdf?ver=nfQgGCOhyFXncQv0I9FKbw%3D%3D>).
- ☐ That packet says everyone lives off base.
- ☐ That packet says a privately owned vehicle shipment is authorized. It says delivery takes about 8 to 10 weeks, and pickup is scheduled on base.

Driving

- ☐ Bring a valid state license. You get the local license by registering with the Military and Family Readiness Center. A legal-office memo is required if the state license is expired or will expire during the tour. Lajes sponsorship packet (<https://www.ramstein.af.mil/Portals/6/LAJES/Lajes%20Field%20Sponsorship%20Info%20Packet%20-%20CAO%2013%20Jan%202025.pdf?ver=nfQgGCOhyFXncQv0I9FKbw%3D%3D>).
- ☐ That packet says you have up to 60 days to get an imported vehicle inspected.

Pets

- ☐ The Lajes packet says dogs and cats are not quarantined. They need to be identifiable by microchip or tattoo, plus a health certificate that includes rabies proof. Lajes sponsorship packet (<https://www.ramstein.af.mil/Portals/6/LAJES/Lajes%20Field%20Sponsorship%20Info%20Packet%20-%20CAO%2013%20Jan%202025.pdf?ver=nfQgGCOhyFXncQv0I9FKbw%3D%3D>).
- ☐ That packet says the rabies proof is obtained at least 30 days before entry and at most 120 days before entry. Confirm the current window with the vet. The packet says the rule can change.

Allowances

- ☐ That packet says Overseas Housing Allowance is paid for rent and utilities when you live in private housing. Lajes sponsorship packet (<https://www.ramstein.af.mil/Portals/6/LAJES/Lajes%20Field%20Sponsorship%20Info%20Packet%20-%20CAO%2013%20Jan%202025.pdf?ver=nfQgGCOhyFXncQv0I9FKbw%3D%3D>).
- ☐ Look up the rate for your locality. A rate for another locality does not apply. DTMO OHA Rate Lookup (<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/OHA-Rate-Lookup/>).
- ☐ That packet says COLA offsets higher prices of non-housing goods and services and moves with the dollar-to-euro rate. DTMO (<https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/>).

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