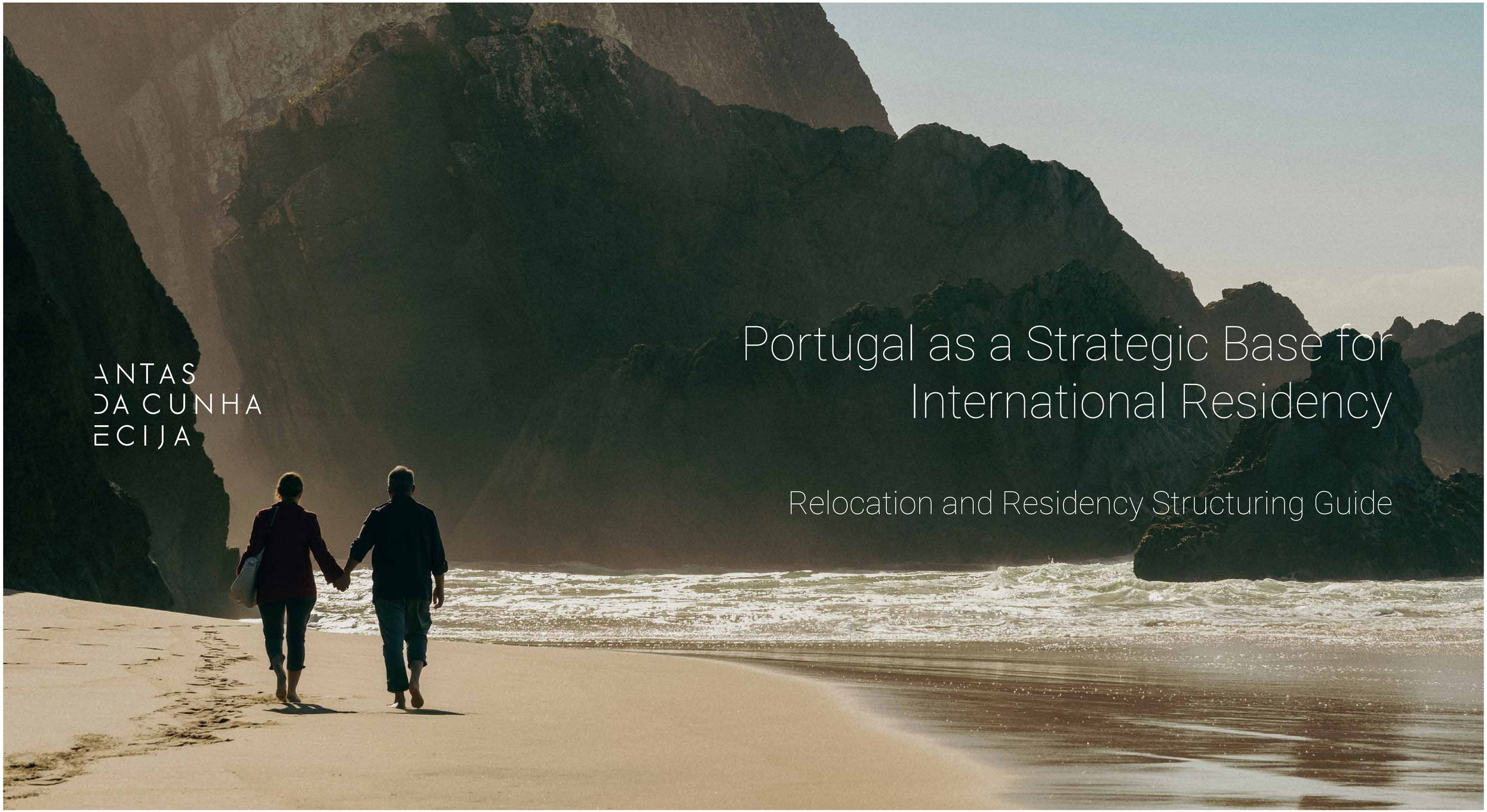


Portugal as a Strategic Base for International Residency

Relocation and Residency Structuring Guide

Growing Global Mobility

A New Global Mobility Landscape

The current International environment is characterized by:

- Increasing geopolitical instability
- Shifts in tax regimes
- Greater regulatory uncertainty across multiple jurisdictions



In this context, individuals and families with significant wealth are increasingly seeking to diversify their geographic footprint, reducing exposure to local risks while creating alternative pathways for residency and International mobility.

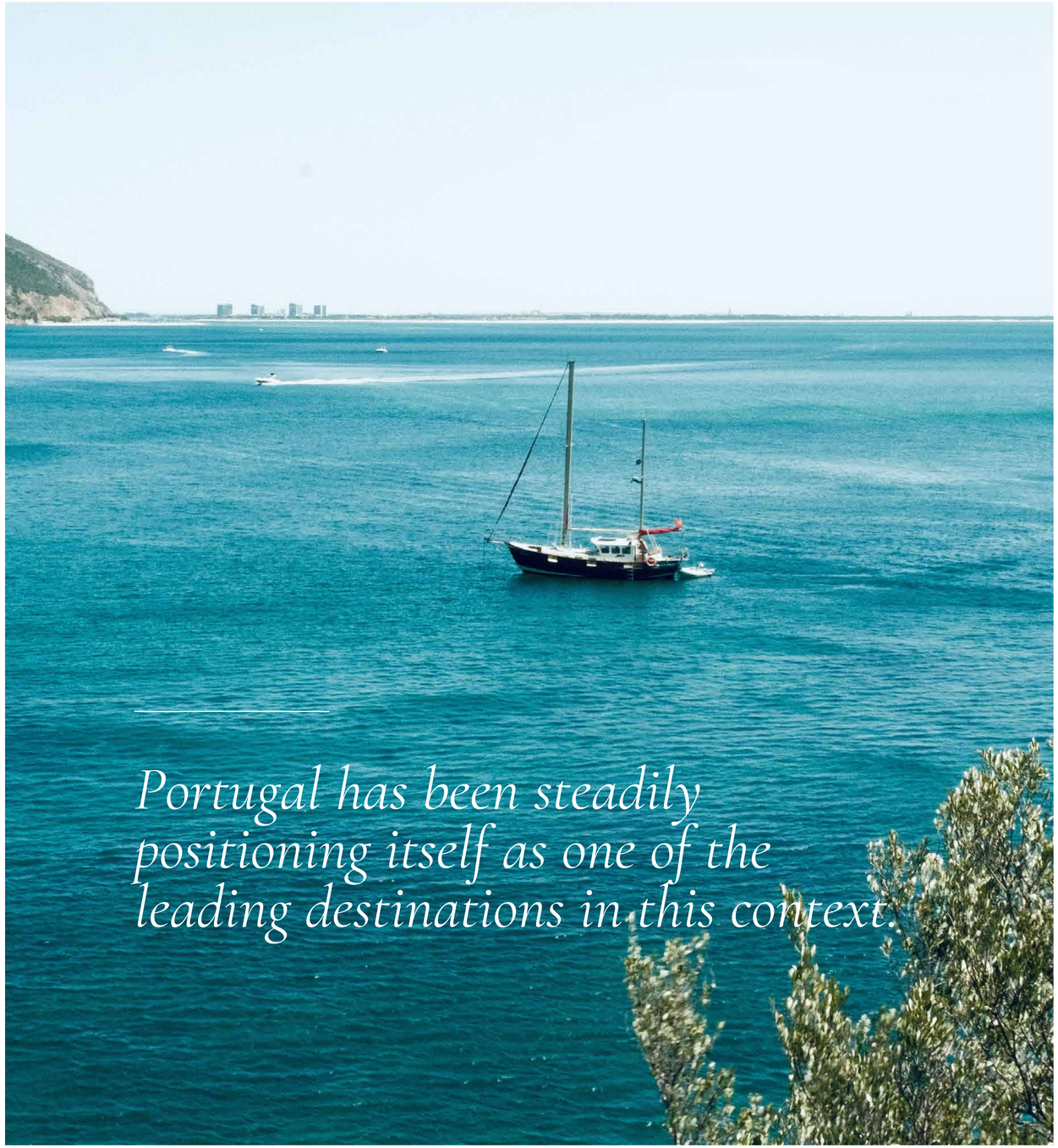
Relocation is no longer a one-off decision; it is now a strategic component of wealth and family planning.

Growing Global Mobility

A New Wave of International Relocation

There has been a significant increase in international relocation flows

- A growing number of international citizens establishing residence in Europe
- Stronger interest from foreign investors in diversifying their geographic exposure
- The expansion of the global investment migration market
- Increasing demand for jurisdictions offering stability, security, and quality of life



Portugal as a Strategic Opportunity

Europe as a Strategic Base

Stability and Predictability

Europe offers a high level of institutional stability, supported by a robust legal framework and a predictable regulatory environment – key factors for long-term decision-making in an international context.

Quality of Life

High-quality healthcare and education systems, combined with a strong environment of safety and well-being, make Europe a particularly attractive destination for families and investors seeking stability and continuity.

Access and Mobility

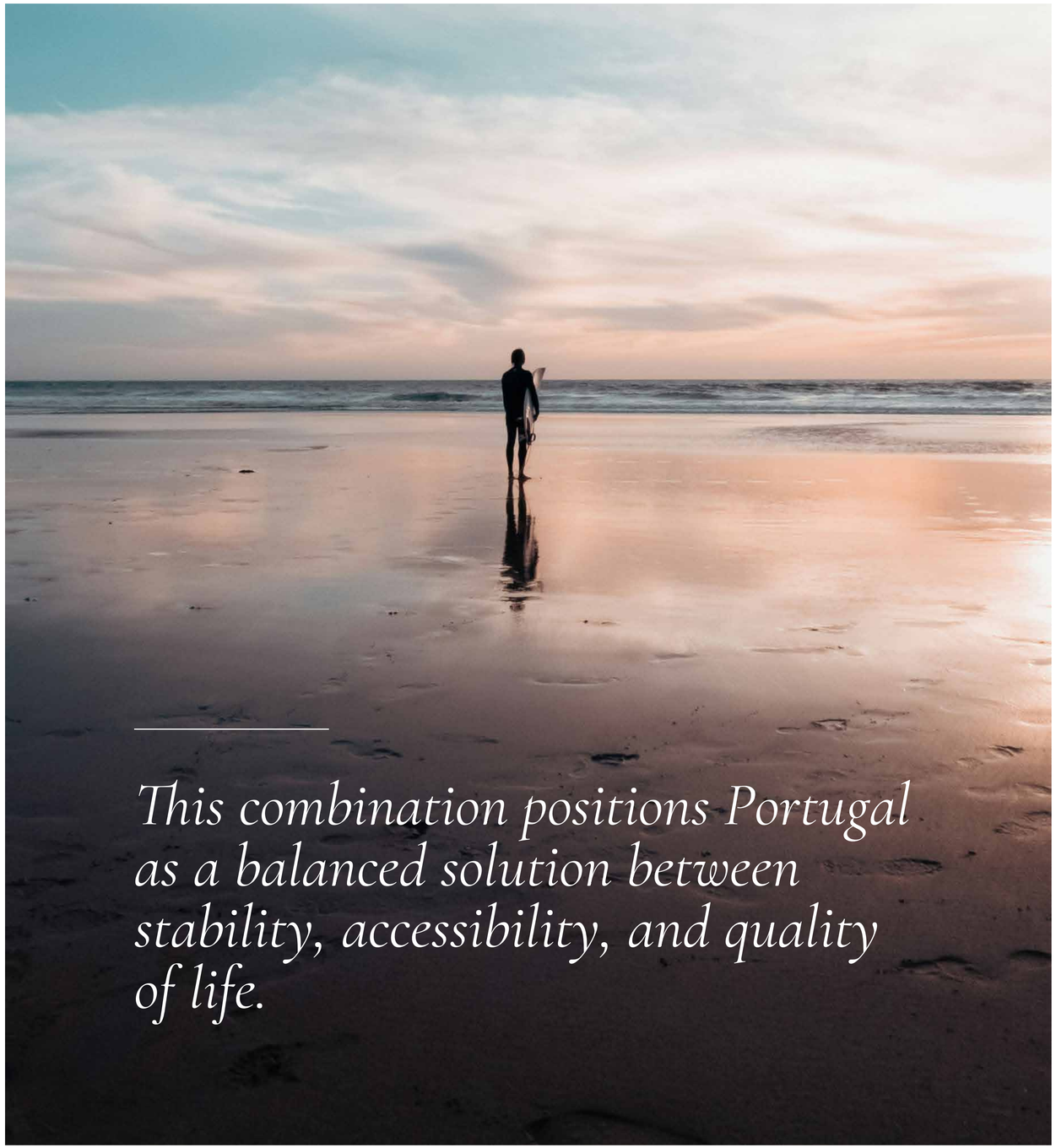
Integration within the Schengen Area enables the free movement of people across European countries, providing access to one of the world's largest economic markets and facilitating both personal and business mobility.

Portugal as a Strategic Opportunity

Portugal as a Strategic Gateway to Europe

Portugal stands out due to a **combination of factors** that make it particularly competitive

- A safe and politically stable environment
- Full integration into the Schengen Area and access to the European market*
- High quality of life, with a strong emphasis on climate, safety, and infrastructure
- A flexible residency framework, with multiple options tailored to different profiles
- The possibility of obtaining permanent residency in Portugal after 5 years of legal residence.
- The possibility of obtaining Portuguese citizenship after 7 years of legal residence for nationals of Portuguese-speaking countries and EU Member States, or after 10 years for nationals of other countries.



* it does not include the right to work

Portugal as a Strategic Opportunity

A Still Underdeveloped Opportunity

Growing Demand

International interest in Portugal has been steadily increasing, driven by investors, skilled professionals, and families seeking stability and access to Europe.

Fragmented Supply

The market is composed of multiple players — including immigration platforms, consultants, and financial intermediaries — operating in isolation and with limited coordination.

Lack of Integration

The absence of an integrated approach across legal, tax, and investment dimensions limits the ability to effectively serve more demanding and sophisticated clients.

There is a clear opportunity for a structured, integrated, and legally robust approach.

Portugal as a Strategic Opportunity

Our Approach An Integrated View of Relocation

At Antas da Cunha ECIJA, we approach relocation as a structured and multidimensional process.

Our support includesi:

- Defining the most suitable residency strategy based on the client's profile
- Structuring the legal and tax framework of the relocation
- Supporting wealth and investment structuring
- Assisting with the client's relocation to Portugal, including operational aspects
- Providing ongoing support after residency has been obtained

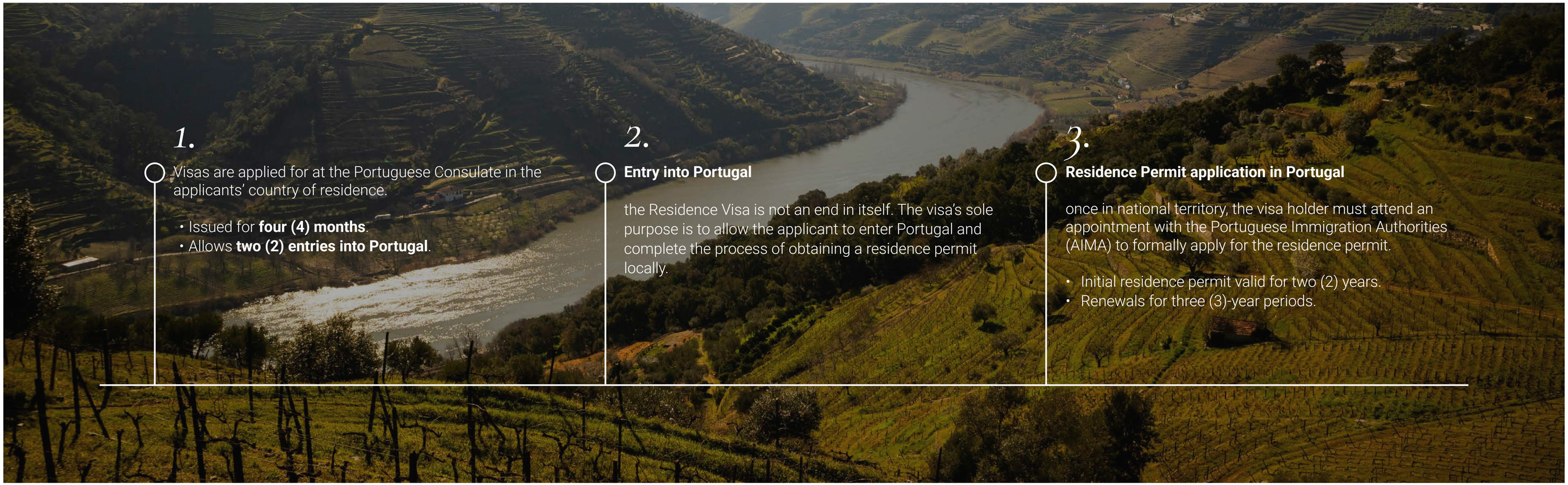
Our involvement goes beyond execution, we focus **on structuring the client's decision-making process in a well-informed and secure manner**.



How the Residency System Works in Portugal

Understanding the Portuguese Residence System

Third-country nationals who intend to establish residence in Portugal must first secure a Residence Visa from the competent Portuguese Consulate in their country of residence. In simple terms, the process can be outlined as follows:



1.

Visas are applied for at the Portuguese Consulate in the applicants' country of residence.

- Issued for **four (4) months**.
- Allows **two (2) entries into Portugal**.

2.

Entry into Portugal

the Residence Visa is not an end in itself. The visa's sole purpose is to allow the applicant to enter Portugal and complete the process of obtaining a residence permit locally.

3.

Residence Permit application in Portugal

once in national territory, the visa holder must attend an appointment with the Portuguese Immigration Authorities (AIMA) to formally apply for the residence permit.

- Initial residence permit valid for two (2) years.
- Renewals for three (3)-year periods.

How the Residency System Works in Portugal

Understanding the Portuguese Residence System

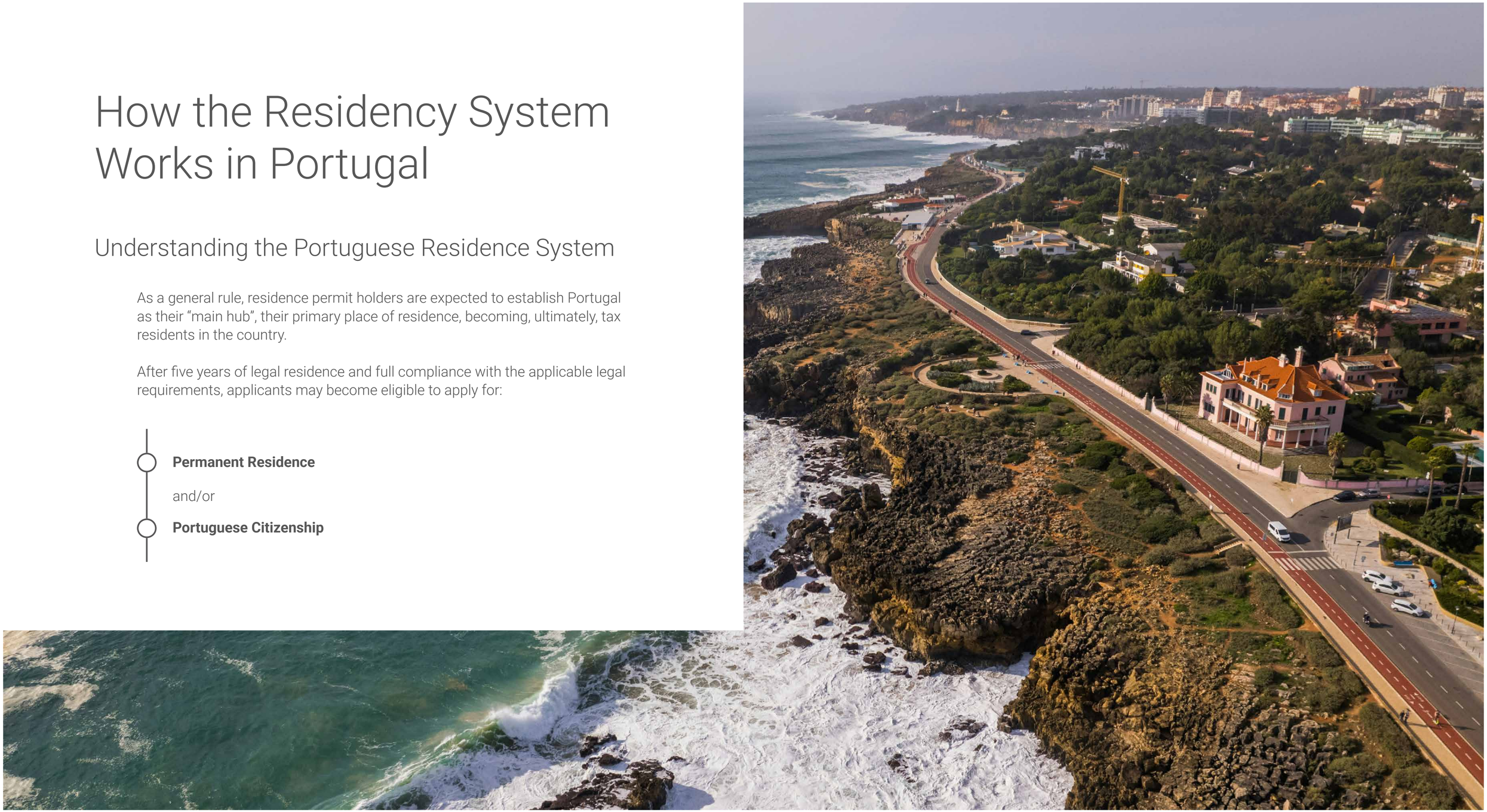
As a general rule, residence permit holders are expected to establish Portugal as their “main hub”, their primary place of residence, becoming, ultimately, tax residents in the country.

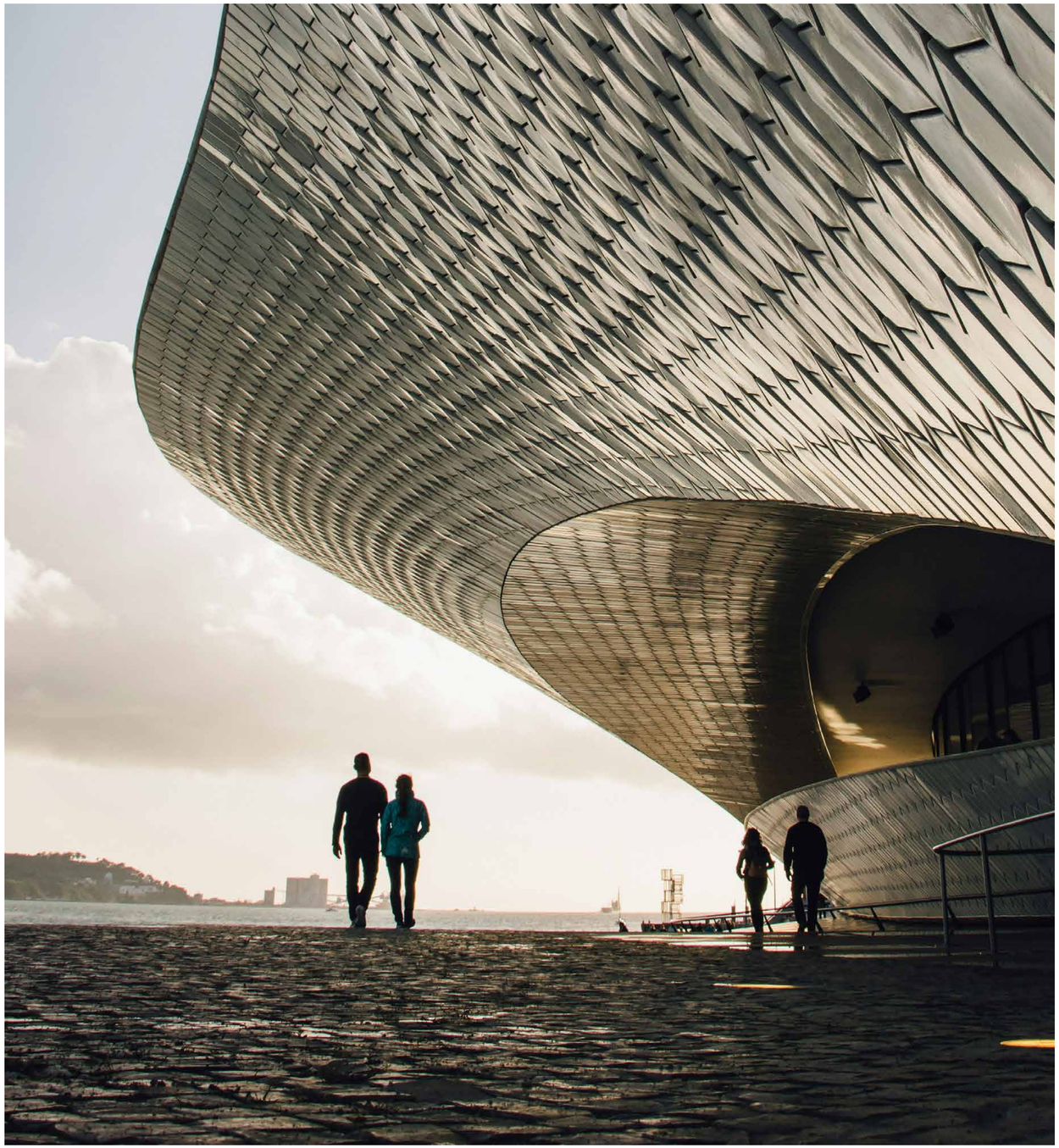
After five years of legal residence and full compliance with the applicable legal requirements, applicants may become eligible to apply for:

- **Permanent Residence**

and/or

- **Portuguese Citizenship**





General Visa Requirements

While each visa category has distinct requirements, the documentation required for visa applications typically follows a common framework. In general, applicants are expected to provide:

a. Valid Passport or Travel Documents.
b. Visa Application Form.
c. Travel Insurance.
d. Criminal Record Certificate.
e. Proof of Sufficient Financial Means of Subsistence.
f. Proof of Accommodation in Portugal.
g. No prior immigration bans or alerts within the Schengen Information System.

Before submission, it is essential to conduct a **thorough and comprehensive review**, of the process, ensuring full compliance with all applicable requirements.

Key Residence Visa Options

D1 – Residence Visa for Employees

Who is it for?

The D1 visa is designed for citizens entering or secured by an employment contract with a Portuguese company under a subordinate employment relationship.

Key points:

- Employment contract (or promissory employment contract) with a Portuguese employer.
- Minimum duration: **twelve (12) months**.
- Salary at least equal to the current Portuguese minimum wage.
- Suitable for all sectors.

This visa is particularly suitable for professionals relocating to Portugal with an **employment contract** or a **promissory employment contract** already secured and a well-defined employment framework.

D2 – Residence Visa for Independent Professionals & Entrepreneurs

Who is it for?

This category of visa covers, especially, two profiles: independent professionals and entrepreneurs intending to carry out economic activity in Portugal.

a. Independent Professionals:

- **Service agreement** or **binding proposal**.
- **Registration with Portuguese Tax Authorities**.
- Monthly income at least equal to the minimum wage.

b. Entrepreneurs:

- Creation of a **new business** or **expansion of an existing one** (through a Portuguese branch).
- **Business plan** demonstrating economic relevance, detailing the nature, value, and duration of the proposed investment.
- **Emphasis on investment**, ieconomic, social, scientific, technological, or cultural impact and **job creation**.

Applicants must also, on a more personal level, demonstrate sufficient financial capacity to support both the business and their very own personal subsistence (for at least **12 months**).

Key Residence Visa Options

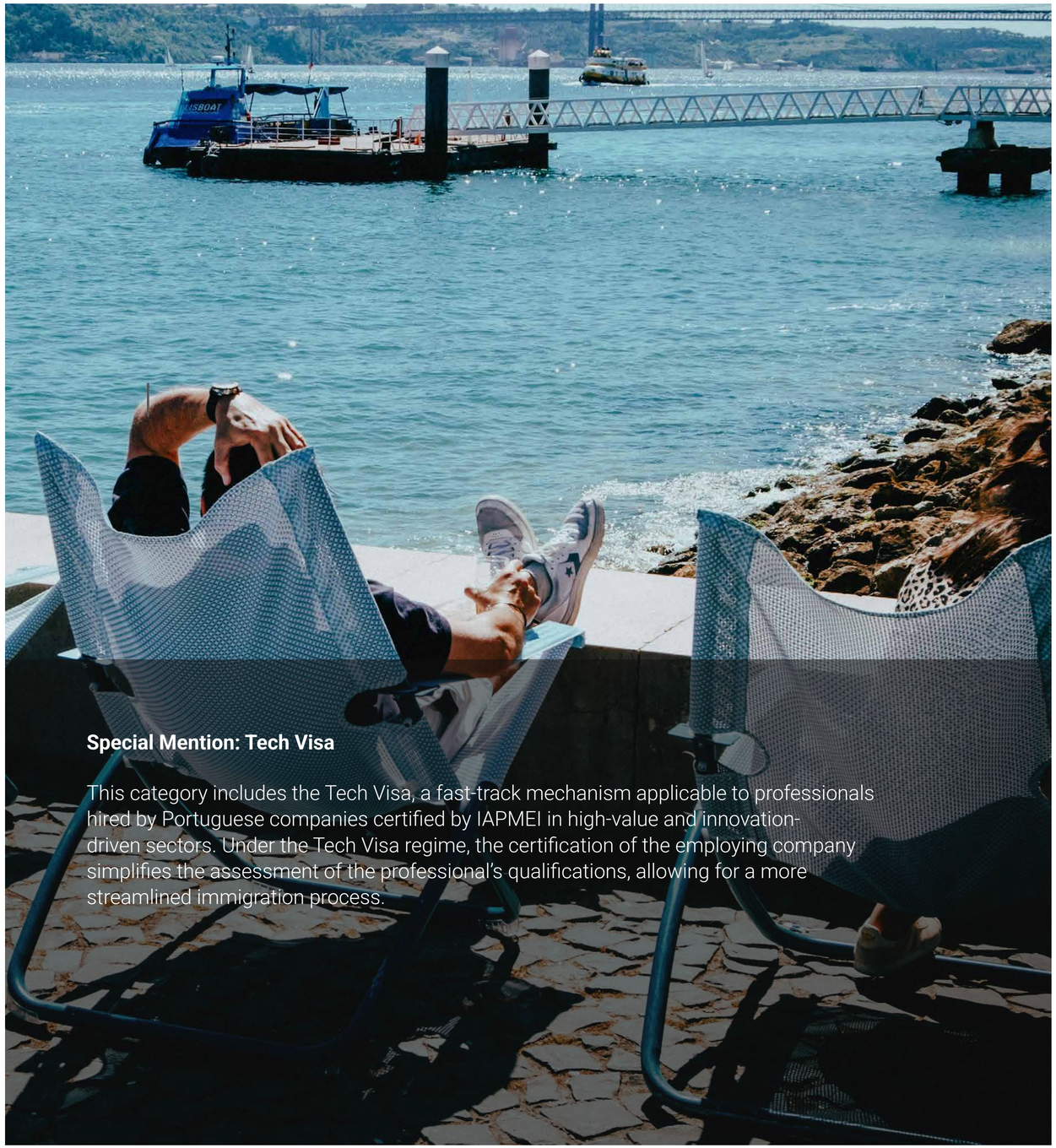
D3 – Residence Visa for Highly Qualified Professionals (Including Tech Visa)

Who is it for?

The D3 visa is designed for highly skilled professionals performing specialized or technical functions, whether under an employment framework or as independent service providers.

Key requirements:

- Employment agreement or services contract (minimum twelve (12) months).
- Highly technical or specialized nature of the position and required skills, as defined by the combination of national and EU regulations.
- Salary of at least 1.5x the Portuguese minimum wage.



Special Mention: Tech Visa

This category includes the Tech Visa, a fast-track mechanism applicable to professionals hired by Portuguese companies certified by IAPMEI in high-value and innovation-driven sectors. Under the Tech Visa regime, the certification of the employing company simplifies the assessment of the professional's qualifications, allowing for a more streamlined immigration process.



Key Residence Visa Options

D7 – Residence Visa for Retirees, Religious Workers, and Individuals Living on Own Income

Among the available residence options, the D7 Visa – a residence visa for retirees, religious workers, and individuals living on their own income – stands out as one of the most popular. It is especially suitable for applicants with consistent passive income, such as pensions, investments, or rental income, among others.

Who is it for?

- Retirees.
- Individuals intending to perform religious functions.
- Individuals with stable passive income (e.g. pensions, dividends, rental income).

Key points:

- Income must be **passive** (employment/active income is not considered for this purpose).
- Proof of available financial means for, at least, **twelve (12) months**.
- Funds need to be held in a Portuguese bank account at the time of application.

Key Residence Visa Options

D8 – Residence Visa for Digital Nomads and Remote Workers

Who is it for?

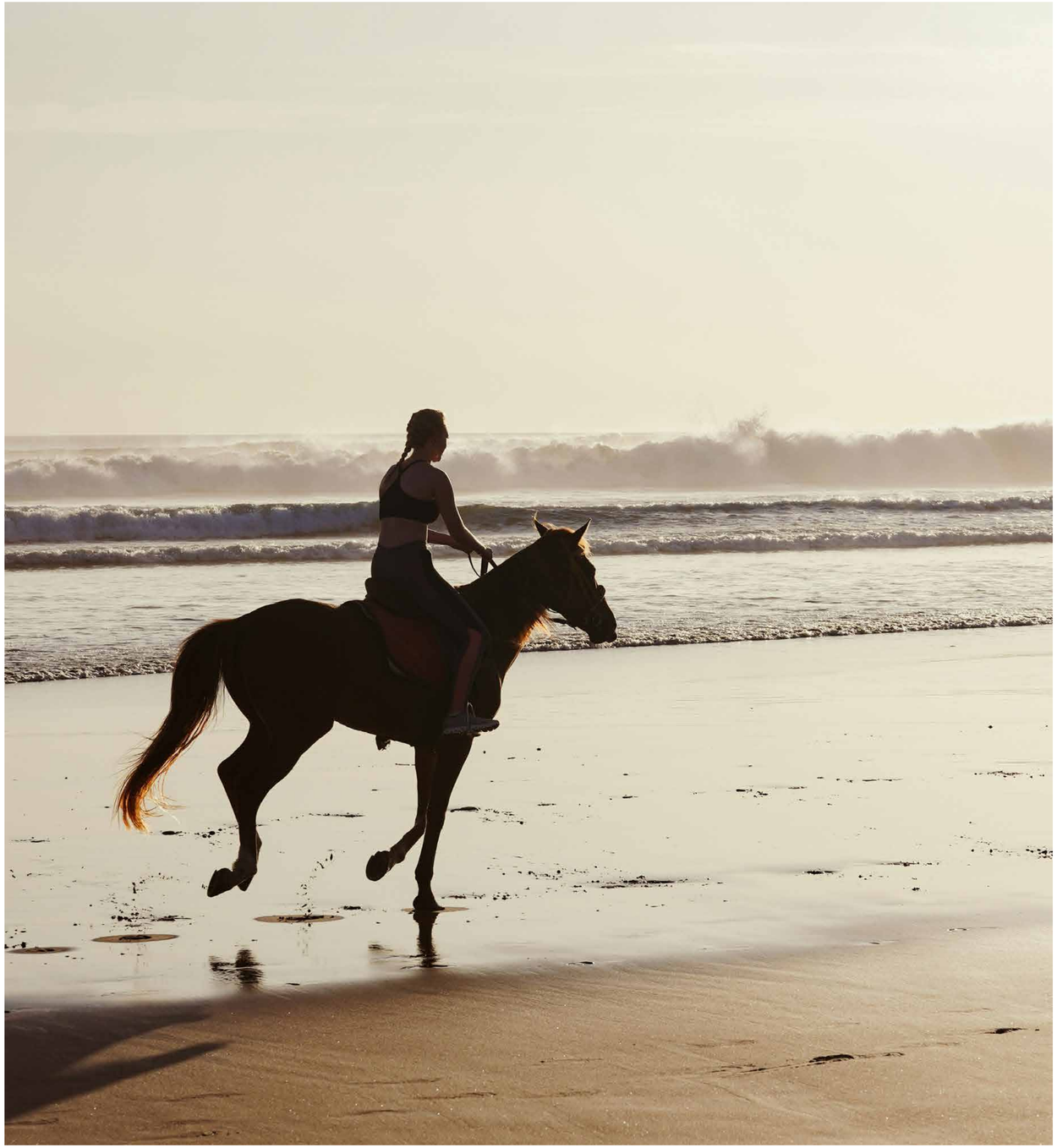
The D8 Visa applies to professionals who wish to reside in Portugal while working remotely for companies or clients based abroad. Applicants must demonstrate that their professional activity can be performed remotely and that their average monthly income meets the legally required threshold. The D8 Visa may also apply to shareholders or directors of foreign companies, provided they can demonstrate that the corporate activity is exercised remotely and that the eligible income derives from an entity based outside Portugal.

Requirements:

- **Proof of an agreement** or **contractual provision allowing remote work**.
- Where applicable, articles of association or equivalent corporate document (evidencing shareholder/director status and the company's activity).
- Average monthly income of at least **4 times the Portuguese minimum wage**.
- Option to apply for either a Temporary Stay Visa or a Residence Visa.

This visa is particularly attractive for professionals independent of a fixed work location who seek flexibility in residence within the European Union.





Key Residence Visa Options

Residence Visa for Job Seeking (Highly Qualified Professionals)

Who is it for?

This visa allows non-EU citizens to enter Portugal with the purpose of seeking highly qualified employment.

Key features:

- Valid for **one hundred and twenty (120) days** and can be extended only once.
- Permits employment during the validity of the visa.
- Includes a **pre-scheduled Immigration Authorities' appointment**.

Once a work contract is secured, the holder may proceed accordingly and apply for the corresponding residence permit.

Key Residence Visa Options

Family Reunification

Who is it for?

Holders of a residence permit in Portugal can request for family reunification, allowing certain family members to legally reside in the country and benefit from an effective residence status.

Eligible family members generally include:

a. Spouse or partner in a duly proven de facto union;
b. Minor or dependent children of the couple or of one of the spouses;
c. Minor adopted children of the applicant, the spouse, or both, as determined by the competent authority in the country of origin;
d. Adult dependent children of the couple or one of the spouses who are single and studying at an educational institution in Portugal;
e. AAscendants (parents) of the main applicant or spouse, provided they are demonstrably dependent;
f. Minor siblings, provided they are under the care of the resident, in accordance with a decision issued by the competent authority in the country of origin and recognized in Portugal.



General rule:

As a general rule, family reunification may be requested after the main applicant has legally resided in Portugal for at least **two (2) years**.

However, this period may be waived or significantly reduced in certain situations, such as for:

a. Minor children;
b. Family members of highly qualified professionals;
c. Holders of an EU Blue Card;
d. Investors under the Golden Visa regime.

In specific cases, such as reunification of a spouse, the “waiting period” can be reduced to **fifteen (15) months**, provided all legally required conditions are met.

In certain situations where the above-mentioned “waiting period” does not apply, the legal framework in place allows the family reunification application to be submitted at the visa application stage, enabling family members to accompany the main applicant from the outset of the process, provided the relevant legal requirements are met.



adcecija.pt

Contacts

João Moraes Vaz
jvaz@adcecija.pt

Bruna Casagrande
bcasagrande@adcecija.pt