



## We know a country...

We know a small country that has Europe's oldest border, a great diversity of landscapes, 3000 hours of sunshine a year and 850km of splendid beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean. We know a country that is the world leader in creative solutions against COVID-19 (according to the OECD).

But there is so much more...

"I know a country that in 30 years has gone from one of the worst infant mortality rates (80 per thousand) to the **fourth lowest rate in the world** (3 per thousand). That in eight years built the second most important **European registry of bone marrow donors**, indispensable in the fight

against leukemic diseases. That is a world leader in **liver transplantation** and is second in **kidney transplantation**. That is a world leader in the application of immediate implants and fixed dental prostheses for total edentulous patients.

I know a country that has a company that developed software to eliminate paper as a support for clinical records in hospitals (Alert), that has one of the largest Iberian companies in the **computerization of pharmacies** (Glint) and one that invented the first anti-epileptic drug with portuguese roots (Bial).

I know a country that is the world leader in the **renewable energy sector** and the **fourth largest producer of wind energy** in the world, which is also building the largest dam plan (10 of them) at European level (EDP).

I know a country that invented and developed the world's first prepaid mobile payment system (PT), that is a **world leader in identification software** (NDrive), that has a company that **corrects and detects flaws in NASA's computer system** (Critical) and has the best business incubator in the world (Pedro Nunes Institute of the University of Coimbra).

I know a country that provides footwear for one hundred million people worldwide and produces the **second most expensive footwear worldwide**, right after the Italian. And that manufactures **innovative sheets, with different odors and anti-germ properties**, where 30 million Americans sleep, for example.

I know a country that is the "state of art" in plastic molds and the world leader in **technology for energy transformers** (Efacec) and that revolutionized the concept of toilet paper (Renova).

I know a country that has **one of the best ATM systems** in the world and that has developed an **innovative system for paying the tolls on highways** (Via Verde).

I know a country that has revolutionized the distribution sector, wins awards for the **construction of shopping centers in other countries** (Sonae Sierra) and is leading the hard-discount sector in Poland (Jerónimo Martins).

I know a country that manufactures **swimsuits that broke records** at the Beijing Olympics, which dressed ten of the equestrian teams that were at those Games, that is the **world's largest producer of sport kayaks**,

that has one of the best soccer teams in the world, the best coach on the planet (José Mourinho) and one of the best players (Cristiano Ronaldo).

I know a country that **has a Noble Prize for Literature** (José Saramago), one of Mozart's most notable interpreters (Maria João Pires) and **several internationally recognized painters and sculptors** (Paula Rego, Júlio Pomar, Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, João Cutileiro).

(...)

**This country is Portugal.**

It has everything written above, plus a wonderful sun, stunning light, fabulous beaches, great cuisine. **Welcome to this country that you don't know: PORTUGAL."**

Text by Nicolau Santos in TAP's UP Magazine

Translation by TravelTailors



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