An important poet of the early 20th century was Fernando Pessoa, who created three distinct poetic voices, each different from his own. Lyrical poetry remains an important literary style in Portugal. In the 20th century, the long dictatorship of António de Oliveira Salazar suppressed creativity and freedom of expression. The revolution in 1974 ended censorship, leading to a new outpouring of literary expression, much of it containing political themes. Two Portuguese novelists who received widespread literary acclaim in the post-Salazar period were José Saramago and António Lobo Antunes. In 1998 Saramago received the Nobel Prize in literature, becoming the first Portuguese writer to win the honor.

Portugal’s cultural offering has become more diverse in recent years. Fado, particularly in Lisbon and Coimbra, is known around the world as the national music. It has also been recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Folklore also plays an important role in Portugal. It is also fairly rich and varied, ranging from music and costume, inspired by the Celtic north of the country, to the Algarve’s Corridinho (traditional folklore music and dance). The country has its own theatre tradition – The “Revista” (“revue theatre” or musical comedy) – as well as many small museums and galleries all over the country. Most cities have cinemas that in most cases show English language films. Films and TV programmes are not dubbed, but generally have subtitles in Portuguese. There are some themed film festivals and interesting music festivals during the summer, as well as a wide variety of other fairs and festivals. Portugal has a long literary tradition, especially in lyrical poetry, which dates from the 12th century. Perhaps Portugal’s greatest poet was the adventurer Luís de Camões, best known for his epic The Lusiads (Os Lusíadas), a poem written in the XVI century in celebration of the Portuguese spirit.