



## Ronaldo (World Soccer Legends)

By Illugi Jökulsson

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The story of the “ultimate footballer,” Cristiano Ronaldo. Covers the star's youth in Madeira, his nicknames, his record with Manchester United, and includes a list of the numerous awards he has received. Updated throughout with stats from the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

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### Editorial Review

Review

Praise for the *World Soccer Legends* Series:

“These books address a largely unfilled niche: short, highly readable biographies of contemporary soccer stars. The texts are printed over and around voluminous, richly printed photographs and include many pages of scoring statistics and league standings.” — *School Library Journal*

“These books are a terrific soccer resource for kids! They combine the best of world soccer along with history, geography and a glimpse at what it’s like growing up as a young soccer player in another country. Soccer is truly a global language and these books help American kids speak it fluently. What a great opportunity for young soccer players to learn about their heroes and the legendary clubs of the world. These books are engaging and fun!”

—Lynn Berling-Manuel, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)

"These books in the World Soccer Legends [series], newly translated into English, will appeal mainly to young hardcore soccer fans. Such readers cannot get enough of the action photographs, copious statistics, and player profiles that fill the books." — *Booklist*

About the Author

Illugi Jökulsson is a journalist, editor, and author based in Iceland.

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### WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?

Cristiano Ronaldo comes from Funchal, the largest town on the island of Madeira, which belongs to Portugal.

#### Portugal

The country covers an area of 35,500 square miles in total and has a population of 10.5 million. The capital is called Lisbon and has 550,000 inhabitants.

#### The Madeiras

The largest island, Madeira, is 286 square miles and has a population of 260,000 of which 111,000 live in the capital, Funchal. Twenty-seven miles away is another island, Porto Santo, which is 16 square miles in size and has a population of 4,300. There are several smaller, uninhabited islands in the archipelago. The islands are roughly 300 miles off the coast of Africa, and more than 620 miles from the mainland of Portugal. The flight between Madeira and Lisbon takes approximately one-and-a-half hours. The Madeiras are 250 miles north of the Canary Islands, which belong to Spain.

#### History

European ships sailing along the African coast probably found the Madeiras a long time ago, and around AD 1420 sailors and merchants from Portugal started to settle on them. The Portuguese cleared the forests that

covered the islands in order to plant sugarcane. The sugar plantations were later moved to Brazil and replaced with vineyards. There is a variety of wine produced in the archipelago called Madeira wine. In addition to agriculture, the islanders make their living from fishing, tourism, and financial services.

In 1976, the Madeiras were granted political autonomy.

### **Soccer**

Soccer is the most popular sport in Portugal. The three strongest clubs by far are Benfica and Sporting from Lisbon, and Porto from the city of Oporto. Porto has dominated the Portuguese League since the beginning of the 21st century. In recent years, the club Braga has been growing in strength. There are several soccer clubs in Madeira, and two of them, Maritimo and Nacional, play in the Portuguese top division. They are among the strongest clubs in the league and have competed in the European tournament, but haven't won any trophies or titles. Matches between these two teams are heated affairs.

### **Who is he?**

Cristiano Ronaldo is the youngest of four siblings. He has one older brother, Huges, and two older sisters called Elma and Liliana Catia. They are considerably older than him, as they were born between 1974 and 1976.

Ronaldo's parents were called Jose Dinis Aveiro and Maria Dolores dos Santos, and were regular working-class people. Jose was a gardener and Dolores a cook. The family had very little money to spare.

### **What is his name?**

One of his sisters got to choose his first name, but his middle name was inspired by Ronald Reagan, who was president of the United States when Ronaldo was born. Reagan used to be a modestly successful film star and was a favorite of Ronaldo's father.

According to Portuguese naming traditions, people usually use the surnames of both mother and father, so the boy's full name is...

Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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