# Short breaks

## ABOUT



**There's always a good reason for a short break, whether it's to find some sunshine, because you have a few days off or because you like to explore new places.**
If you have a few days to spare, Lisbon or Porto are worth a visit. It's a short hop from anywhere in Europe and the **cities are easy to visit**, with many sights, **good food** and **lots of entertainment**. And the fact that both are located by a river gives them a special atmosphere, particularly in the mild climate of autumn or spring, when the **light takes on amazing hues**.



From Portas do Sol,Lisboa ©Turismo de Lisboa
Even if you only have a short time in Portugal, **it's easy to travel to other places** to learn more about the history and heritage of the Portuguese or to take a walk in nature and simply feel the clean air of the protected areas.

Porto © gurl515

For anyone who is in Porto, the cities of [Braga](#) and [Guimarães](#) (the latter a World Heritage Site), [Gerês](#) National Park, [Arouca Geopark](#) and the River [Douro](#) are options worth considering. Yet if you're in Lisbon, the World Heritage Site of [Sintra](#), the Estoril Coast, and the [natural parks of the River Tagus](#) and the [River Sado](#) estuaries are all close by. Alongside the Sado, there's also the [Arrábida Natural Park](#) and the towns of [Palmela, Sesimbra and Setúbal](#), which offer a beautiful outlook over the sea. A little further south, but only an hour drive, [Évora](#) is another World Heritage Site. So, too, are the Monasteries of Alcobaça and Batalha, north of the capital, shortly after the mediaeval walled town of [Óbidos](#).

Douro Valley ©Porto Convention & Visitors Bureau
These are just a few suggestions for **accessible places** to spend a different kind of day out and learn a little more about **Portuguese culture** and landscapes.