

CAPE VERDE ARCHIPELAGO

Optional Shore excursions

BOA VISTA – the Dry North

Duration: 8 hours

Including: Transportation, English speaking guide and lunch.



The easternmost and third-largest island of Cape Verde definitely does justice to its name – Boa Vista: beautiful view. Life on this island is authentic and the landscape is characterized by deserts of sand and scree.

Our excursion will take us to the North part of the Island, where we will have the opportunity to know the daily life of small villages, such as João Galego, Fundo das Figueiras and Cabeço de Tarafes. Through a picturesque road we pass through Bufareira -one of the poorest villas of Boavista-, and continue passing by 3 villages, where the landscape is desert. João Galego, Fundo das Figueiras and Cabeço de Tarafes; they sleep on the shade of a vegetation. The slender silhouette of the palm trees is the first green sign to mark the presence of a few cultivated fields that can be found in the 5% of the fertile soil of the island. We can also see acacia, where the goats make the turn of birds, biting leaves hard with slow gestures. Its inhabitants, in a constant struggle against the scarcity of water, insist on maintaining the activity that was the first of the island: cattle raising. In the rainy season, the well-known Boavista goat cheese is made. The heat brings the desire of a coffee, freshly made and served in the kitchen at the back of a grocery store / bar / restaurant, when needed. From the street comes the deaf thump of a Pilão grinding maize for cachupa, Capverdian famous dish. Curious eyes lurk in the windows of bicoloured houses (yellow / blue, pink / green ...) with bougainvillea climbing on the walls.

On these villages there are still houses without electricity and running water, so there is always a van driving around to supply water to the population.

Lunch will be served in a local Restaurant, before return on board.

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PRAIA – CIDADE VELHA

Duration 3 hours

Including: Transportation, guide and entrances.



The excursion starts with a short half an hour trip to Cidade Velha (once Ribeira Grande), first capital of Cape Verde. Here we walk through the village, visiting the fortress of São Filipe, the Pelourinho, the Sé Catedral, and Church of Nossa Senhora do Rosário and the convent of São Francisco. Afterwards we drive towards Plateau to have a look at its main attractions; Cidade Velha which has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Praça Alexandre de Albuquerque, surrounded by old buildings, exemplifying the old colonial architecture style, like for instance the Palácio da Justiça, the church of Nossa Senhora from 1900, the Municipality, the Culture Palace Ildo Lobo, the market and the miradouro.

MINDELO - SAO VICENTE – Culture City

Duration 4 hours

Including: English speaking guide



MINDELO is known as the cultural capital of the country. We will go on a discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbor town. On this tour you will be walking towards the harbor along the famous of MINDELO bay RUA DE PRAIA with traditional shops and monuments like and you will see the cultural centre, (former customs) and the fish market. You will also visit of the African market PRACA ESTRELA passing a traditional quarter, with the town hall, and the vegetable market. Before returning to the pier, you will pass the historical main street RUA LISBOA and the very lively PRACA NOVA- Free time for shopping.

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FOGO – SAO FELIPE City tour and the VOLCANO

Duration: 7 hours

Including: Transportation, English speaking guide and lunch.



We start our excursion at Presidio, city's main square, and continue to the "colored market" with many kinds of fruit and vegetables. Continue passing by The City Hall and many others old Sobrados (colonial houses), some of them already restored, and we enter in the **Municipal Museum**, to learn about the history of one of the most important Islands in the past. We continue with a visit to the Natural park is a must, appreciating the greatest attraction of Cape Vert and one of the most impressive landscapes in the world.

Departure from **São Filipe**, with our first Stop at **Forno**, visit to one of the area where the drop-by-drop irrigation method is used, a technique adopted by farms on the island in order to minimize the effect of drought. Then we continue to **Achada Furna**, a change to get to know the communities were new houses were built for population of Chã das Caldeiras after the eruption of 1995 and 2014. Although many of them had returned to the Caldeira. Continuing we stop in **Cabeça Fundão** were we have a nice view of many old crater and a landscape of mix colors. Finally we arrive at the entry of the **Natural Park of Chã das Caldeiras** to enjoy a stupendous view from the highest point from Cape Vert. Is our opportunity to Trek to the **2014 crater** – where one can find places extremely hot spots apart from the **Sulfur**. Time to visit one of the two villages that was destroyed, in the eruption of 2014/2015. 98% of the houses, schools, restaurants, hotels, everything gone, but the people were back, strong to rebuild everything again. Lunch at Marisa house and time to taste the traditional Chã das Caldeiras **wine** better known as **Manecon**. A chance to purchase one of the best coffee in the world.

SANTO ANTAO – The Discovery

Duration: 7,5-8 hours

Including: Transportation, English speaking guide and lunch.



A full day excursion discovering the major sites of the island, passing by the famous road of Corda, Água das Caldeiras, Ribeira Grande, Ponta do Sol and, of course, by Paul – a green jewel among the villages of Santo Antão. On the way we will visit plantations of sugar cane and we will taste in home-distillery "grogue" – the white rum made by sugar cane where you will have the possibility to buy some bottles. The Santo Antao tour will show you the fabulous contrast between an arid southern region, a forest in altitude and the fabulous vegetation from the North. A tour no one should miss!

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SANTO ANTAO – Volcanic Landscapes

Duration: 4 hours

Including: Transportation, English speaking guide



Discover the south-western part of the island a safari through volcanic landscapes, pozzolans fields and isolated villages with dropwise agriculture and different kind of plantations.

This is a beautiful experience through villages like Lagedos with an ecological tourism

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Minimum number of participant for the operation of the tours: 11 persons.*
- Tours include: private minibuses for the exclusive use of the VARIETY CRUISES passengers, English speaking guides and escorts, entrances where applicable and meals (when in the program)*
- Transportation takes place by Toyota or similar Minibuses with no A/C no P/A*
- The level of the tours is considered easy except the lever of the Sao Vicente walking tour which is considered moderate.*
- Prices or descriptions are subject to changes due to operational or other unforeseen issues. Guests will be informed ahead of time – prior signing in, should any changes occur.*

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