



# THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

SAL TO SAL  
SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE  
**Winter 2024/2025**





## DAY 2

# SAL REI

### BOA VISTA- the Dry North

- Duration approx. 7 hours
- Incl. Transportation by pickups/Guide/Lunch
- Per Person: **Euro 97**

**NOTE: Boa Vista tour must be pre-booked ahead of embarkation!**

The easternmost **and third-largest island of Cape Verde, Boa Vista**, truly lives up to its name, which means” **beautiful view**”. Life on this island is authentic and its landscape is characterized by vast **deserts of sand and scree**.

During our excursion we pass through **small villages**, offering a glimpse into everyday life and the unique nature of this island. Our journey begins in **Sal Rei**, where we will wander the streets and soak in the atmosphere of the capital. Next, we will head **to Rabil** to visit **a local school** for **traditional pottery**, where we can watch artisans create decorative pieces from local clay. Following this, we will take a short drive through the **Viana Desert** (short stop). Continuing southwards through the dry, barren landscape, we will have the chance to swim in the ocean at the natural beach of **Santa Monica**, weather permitting. As we drive along the beach and sand dunes, we will arrive at our local lunch venue near Sal Rei.

Our final highlight is a visit to the **Shipwreck at Santa Maria Beach** before we return to our ship.

Note: Guests are seated both inside/outside at the pickups with rotation during the tour; (heat/sun/sand)





## DAY 3

# SANTIAGO ISLAND

### PRAIA- CIDADE VELHA

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation/Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: **Euro 53**

The excursion begins with a visit to the “Plateau” – the heart of Praia, the bustling capital of the Cape Verde Islands. We will explore **Praia Alexandre de Albuquerque**, surrounded by historic buildings that exemplify colonial architecture, such as the Palacio da Justica, the Church of Nossa Senhora (dating back to 1900), the Municipality, the Culture Palace lido Lobo, the markets and the Miradouro pedestrian shopping street. A half-hour trip will then take us to **Cidade Velha** (formerly Ribeira Grande), the first capital of Cape Verde and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, we will visit the **fortress of Sao Filipe**, stroll through the village, and see the **Pelourinho**, where slaves were once sold to America. We will also explore the ruins of the Cathedral, the **Church of Nossa Senhora do Rosario**, and the “**Rua de Banana**”, the oldest street in the entire archipelago.



## DAY 4

# SAO FELIPE

### FOGO-Full-day Island tour SAO FELIPE and the VOLCANO

- Duration approx. 7 hours
- Incl. Transportation/Guide/Lunch
- Per Person: **Euro 82**

The visit to the **Fogo Natural Park** is a must, appreciating the greatest attraction of Cape Verde and one of the most impressive landscapes in the world. We start our excursion in Sao Filipe at **Presidio, the city's main square**, and continue to **the "colored market"** with many kinds of fruit and vegetables. Continuing by the **City Hall** and many other old **Sobrados** (colonial houses), some of which have already been restored.

Departure from **Sao Filipe**, we pass **Forno**, one of the areas using the drop- by-drop irrigation method, a technique adopted by farms on the island to minimize the effect of drought. Then we continue to **Achada Furna**, where we get to know the communities with new houses built for the population of **Cha das Caldeiras** after the eruptions of 1995 and 2014, although many have returned to Caldeira. Continuing, we stop in **Cabeca Fundao** where we have a nice view of many old craters and a landscape of mixed colors.

Finally, we arrive at the entry of **the Natural Park of Cha das Caldeiras** to enjoy a stupendous view from the highest point in Cape Verde. We visit one of the two villages destroyed in the eruption of 2014/2015. 98% of the houses, schools, restaurants, hotels-everything was gone, but the people were back, strong and determined to rebuild everything again. **Lunch in the Caldera** includes a tasting of the traditional Cha das Caldeiras **wine** and the local strong red wine, known as Manecon. There is also a chance to purchase one of the best **coffees** in the world before we return to our ship.





## DAY 5

# SAO VINCENTE

### MINDELO – Culture City walk

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Guide
- Per Person: **Euro 45**

#### Discover the Cultural Heart of Cape Verde!

Mindelo, celebrated as the cultural capital of Cape Verde, invites you on a captivating discovery tour of its vibrant markets and hidden corners: Begin your journey with a stroll along the famous **Mindelo Bay and Rua de Praia**, lined with traditional shops and historical monuments. Visit the cultural center (formerly the customs house) and see the bustling fish market. Continue to the lively African market at **Praca Estrela**. In the heart of the town, explore the Roman Catholic church built in 1862, the **Pro-Cathedral of our Lady of the Light**, one of Mindelo's oldest buildings. Although recently enlarged, the original façade remains intact. Visit the **historic quarter**, featuring the town hall and the covered vegetable market.

On our return to the pier, stroll down the historic **Rua Lisboa** and the lively **Praca Nova**, where you'll have free time for shopping.



## DAY 6

# SANTO ANTAO



### SANTO ANTAO - The Discovery

- Duration approx. 8 hours
- Incl. Transportation/Guide/Lunch
- Per Person: **Euro 84**

Discover the major sites of Santo Antao on this **full-day** excursion. We begin by passing along the famous new coastal road to **Cidade da Pombas** and then venture into **Paul Valley**- a green jewel among the villages and valleys of Santo Antao. After exploring traditional rural settlements, we'll take a short morning break at a higher altitude before embarking on a brief walk through the lush valley. Here, you'll see sugar cane plantations and visit a home distillery to taste "grogue" - the **white rum** made from sugar cane, with the opportunity to purchase some bottles. Continuing along the coastal road, we arrive at **Ponta do Sol**, the fisherman's port of Santo Antao. After a short walk to the port, we'll enjoy lunch in a rural setting, featuring local products like breadfruit and sweet potatoes. The journey then takes us over the old mountain road, passing Ribeira de Torre, Agua das Caldeiras, and the **Corda Caldera**, one of the tour's absolute highlights. From here, we descend back to Porto Novo. Before returning to our ship we will view the results of a wall painting competition held a few years ago.

The Santo Antao tour showcases the striking contrast between the arid southern region, the forested highlands, and the lush vegetation of the north. This is a tour no one should miss!





## DAY 7

# SANTO ANTAO

### SANTO ANTAO-Volcanic Landscapes/ Half-day

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation/Guide/a refreshment
- Per Person: **Euro 58**

**Discover the South-Western Part of the Island.** Embark on a safari through volcanic landscapes and porcelain fields, where you'll encounter beautiful, isolated villages practicing dropwise agriculture and various kinds of plantations. This tour is perfect for those who love landscapes filled with volcanic formations and want to see the results of various eruptions over time, which have created bizarre basalt rock formations and deep canyons of unique beauty.

In the Sul area, we can explore the different layers of volcanic activity from bygone times. The road follows the Canyon Cha de Morte and leads to a viewpoint overlooking a small settlement inside the canyon, where locals transport their products using a tiny, steep steel cable car. As we follow the road towards the mountains, you'll see a typical landscape characterized not only by unique crops but also by the striking color contrast of the black volcanic rock.

In Forquinha, we will contemplate a magnificent view of **Alto Mira** and Ribeira das Patas. Descending back to the coast, we will appreciate the daily life of the locals and their methods of working the land.



## REMARKS:

-Minimum number of participants for the operation of the above tours: 10 paying guests.  
Maximum number depending on availability (limited)

-Tours include: private transportation for the exclusive use of the VARIETY CRUISES passengers, friendly local guides or escorts, entrances where applicable and light traditional meals (if mentioned in the program). Please note that guiding by local escorts in remote areas with no or limited tourism infrastructure may seem less structured or there may be language barriers. We thank you in advance for your understanding and hope that you will enjoy these more authentic and immersive experiences offered.

-Transportation takes place by Toyota or similar Minibuses or Jeeps with no A/C no P/A (microphone)- as per island standards.

-The level of the tours is considered easy (guests with normal mobility condition) except for Boa Vista which is considered slightly strenuous (sun/sand and transportation is taking place with pickups vehicles) and 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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