

CAPE VERDE 2011/2012

Port:	Ilha do Sal
Days:	12
Departure:	Wednesday 30 November 2011, Sunday 11 December 2011, Thursday 22 December 2011, Monday 2 January 2012, Friday 13 January 2012, Tuesday 24 January 2012
Embark:	20:00 hrs
Disembark:	10:00 hrs
Price:	2-personcabin € 1825, - 4-personcabin € 1600, - Price per person, incl. meals & drinks, excl. flights, insurance & visa
Transfer:	± €700, - to be arranged by the guest*

Itinerary

On this voyage we will visit at least six islands. These are approximately a day of sailing apart. After each leg we take the time to explore the island of destination. At night we will mostly be anchored, but in some cases we will keep sailing through the night. The landing places are carefully selected and on most islands that we visit we will organise an excursion with local guides.

Day 1.

Upon arrival on Ilha do Sal you travel to Palmeira on your own accord, for example by taxi. The 'Oosterschelde' is waiting for you there, anchored in the bay. Palmeira is a rustic town where you will find few tourists. The island Sal is desert-like, with miles-long sand beaches. On the south side of the island there is the fisher's village Santa Maria where the larger hotels and busy tourist attractions are located.

Day 2.

The following morning you have time to take a stroll, make a visit to the town or take a dive in the ocean before we set sail. While sailing from the windward to the Leeward Islands we have the wind in our back. The passengers are divided up in shifts and are encouraged to participate in all duties onboard, from navigation, steering to trimming the sails. Those who dare can climb the mast to see the world from up a yard of a big sailing vessel. The crossing to Santiago is approximately 110 miles; we expect to arrive somewhere during the night.

Day 3.

We anchor in the beautiful bay of the village Tarrafal. Santiago is the most African island with mountains and green valleys. We will spend the entire day on the island. With a taxi bus we travel across the island to visit the colourful markets of the capital Praia and the oldest city of the Archipelago, Cidade Velha. In the inlands we find mango trees, banana plantations and old grog factories, where the sugar cane is still grinded by a grinding stone pulled on by a cow. We will not come back onboard until the evening. It is no exception that spontaneous parties start on the beach here, where everyone is dancing to the swinging Cape Verdean music.

Day 4.

The crossing from Santiago to São Vicente is the longest leg of this journey. Close-hauled and with most of the sails set we push 'Oosterschelde' to her limits. The night will be spent on the sea.

Day 5.

To reach the gentile beach of Mindelo we sail between the islands São Vicente and Santo Antão. Because of the venturi-effect the winds are usually very strong. Mindelo, on São Vicente, is the largest harbour and the second largest city of Cape Verde. There are restaurants, an indoor market, cafés and souvenir shops. A little beach offers a chance to go swimming.

Day 6.

Santo Antão is considered the most beautiful island of the archipelago. It is also the greenest and most fertile of the islands. With the ferry from Mindelo we sail to Santo Antão and let a taxi bus take us to the edge of the volcanic crater. From this point we take a walk down to Ribeira Grande. The variations in the landscape and the breathtaking views make this a walk to never forget.

Day 7.

Today we sail close past the coasts of several islands. On our way to São Nicolau we pass Santa Lucia, one of the uninhabited islands of the archipelago. It is very rich in fish so we throw out a fishing line to test our luck. Due to the large number of sharks, swimming is not recommended.

Day 8.

The destination on São Nicolau is also called Tarrafal. We anchor just before the harbour, or maybe even moor at the quay. Tarrafal is a peaceful fisherman's village where we will be welcomed with open arms. There is barely any tourism and the majority of fisherman sail instead of motorized boats. On São Nicolau we visit the beautiful worn basalt formations and drive up to the last remainders of a primeval forest in the mountains.

Day 9 and 10.

Another amazing leg of our voyage that will take us to Boa Vista. A considerable distance from the village we drop anchor, as it will not be possible to come closer to the shore. The rubber dinghy is used to go to shore, but due to safety precautions we only undertake this during daylight. Boa Vista is one of the islands on which mass tourism is developing. Along the coastline several resorts have risen from the ground. The beaches are indeed beautiful and the inland is known for its remarkable moving sand dunes.

Day 11 and 12.

The last crossing, from Boa Vista to Ilha do Sal, will probably be made with help of the engine. We drop anchor at Santa Maria, which has already been a touristic spot for some time. The upside is that there is plenty of opportunity to buy souvenirs or get some ice cream. The last day of your holiday can be spent lying on the beach or renting a surfboard.

General

The before mentioned islands will certainly be visited. Depending on the circumstance the captain may decide to sail another route or add another island or village to the program.

***Transfer**

Tap Air Portugal has daily flights from Lisbon to Sal. Travellers from other parts of Europe can come aboard here. In addition, there are several possibilities for charter flights:

From several airports in Germany: Fly Tui (www.tuifly.com)

From Brussels: Jet Air Fly (www.jetairfly.com)

From Amsterdam (only return ticket possible): Arkefly (www.arkefly.nl)

The shipping company can provide you with information regarding flights and accommodation should you wish to extend your holiday with one or two days.