

CAPE VERDE 2010/2011

<i>Duration:</i>	<i>12 days</i>
<i>Voyage 1:</i>	<i>Monday 15 November (14:00hrs) - Friday 26 November (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Voyage 2:</i>	<i>Sunday 28 November (14:00hrs) - Thursday 9 December (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Voyage 3:</i>	<i>Saturday 11 December (14:00hrs) - Wednesday 22 December (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Voyage 4:</i>	<i>Friday 24 December (14:00hrs) - Tuesday 4 January 2011 (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Voyage 5:</i>	<i>Wednesday 5 January (14:00hrs) - Sunday 16 January (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Voyage 6:</i>	<i>Tuesday 18 January (14:00hrs) - Saturday 29 January (08:00hrs)</i>
<i>Price:</i>	<i>€ 1750,- (stay on board, including meals, excluding flights)</i>
<i>Transfer:</i>	<i>± € 700,- to be arranged by the guest *</i>

The islands of Cape Verde are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, over 600 kilometres west of Senegal at approximately 16 degrees North. Cape Verde consists of 9 inhabited and a few uninhabited islands. The official language is still Portuguese, however most inhabitants speak Creole and sometimes some English or French. Cape Verde has approximately 450.000 inhabitants, a mixture of African ancestries and Portuguese, French and Italian descent. A voyage to Cape Verde is a voyage to Africa. On this voyage we are able to see the most idyllic spots on these tropical islands, but we will also be confronted with the poverty of most of the population.

Cape Verde has a tropical climate. The sea temperature stays around 25 degrees Celsius and the often-strong Trade winds originate from the northeast. It rarely rains and the bright sun shines constantly. On some days the fine dusty desert sand limits the sunlight (and even your sight). All islands are volcanic, but at the same time the terrain varies widely. The landscape consists of steep terrace fields with bananas and coffee plantations, sand deserts, black volcano's and a fierce deep blue ocean. On some of the islands rare seabirds can be found. The waters are full of fly-fish, tuna, sea turtles and whales.

Description

This voyage offers a sound mix between active, but comfortable, sailing in a breathtaking part of the world and the exploration of a unique group of islands. The landing places are carefully selected and at least six of the islands will be visited. Each island is approximately one day sailing apart and after each leg we take our time to explore the island, either individually or with an organised expedition. At night we are mostly anchored but on occasion we will sail through the night.

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. While sailing from the windward to the leeward islands we have the wind in our back. The passengers are divided up in shifts and encouraged to participate in all duties onboard, from navigation, steering to trimming the sails.

Day 3. We anchor in the beautiful bay of the village Tarafal, Santiago, where at night the stars offer a spectacular sight. Also, it is not exceptional that an impromptu party takes place on the beach with swinging Cape Verdean music. Santiago is the most African island with mountains and green valleys. The interior of the island is full of mango trees, banana plantations and an old grog factory where the sugar canes are still ground by a cow pulling the stone. The capital of Cape Verde, Paraia, is also on this island. This city offers fabulous African markets.

Day 4. The crossing from Santiago to Saõ Vicente is the longest leg of this journey. High in the wind and with the sails set we push 'Oosterschelde' to her limits. The night we will spend on the sea.

Day 5. To reach the gentle beach of Mindelo we sail between the islands Saõ Vicente and Santo Antaõ. Because of the venturi-effect the winds are usually very strong. Mindelo, on Saõ 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. On other spots the current is simply too strong.

Day 6. Santo Antaõ is probably the most beautiful island of the archipelago. It is considered the greenest and most fertile of the islands. Additionally, it is the island for nature walks where the changes in the landscape offer breathtaking views.

Day 7. On our way to Saõ 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. We anchor in the bay of Tarafal, Saõ Nicolau, but perhaps a spot is free along the docks. Tarafal is a peaceful fisherman's village where we will be welcomed with open arms. There is barely any tourism and the majority of fishermen sail instead of motorized boats. On Saõ Nicolau we also visit the basalt formations and drive through the last remains of the primeval forest.

Day 9 and 10. Another amazing leg of our journey takes us to Boa Vista. A considerable distance from the village we drop the anchor, as it is not possible to come closer to shore. The rubber dinghy is used to go ashore but due to safety precautions we only undertake this during daylight. Boa Vista is known for its remarkable sand dunes.

Day 11 and 12. The time for the final crossing has arrived. We need a little luck with the wind because if it is too northern then we may need to use the engine. The anchor will be dropped at Santa Maria. The last day of your holiday you can spend by lying on the beach, buying souvenirs in the village or renting a surfboard.

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.

Excursions

For most of the islands the shipping company offers organised expeditions under guidance of one crewmember and a local guide. The shipping company covers the costs of meals and ferries during these excursions. The costs for taxi and bus transfers are approx. € 10-12 per person and will be charged to the passenger. These excursions are not obligatory and you can choose to explore the islands at your own convenience.

There are several special points of interest for exploring nature and bird spotting. Other possibilities are scuba diving, renting a surfboard or kite, and tours on a quad. Onboard we have plenty of reading materials about the islands and what can be done there.

Time difference and vaccinations

In the winter it is two hours earlier in Cape Verde than in central Europe. Vaccinations are not required, but are recommended. We would advise you to contact your physician four to six weeks prior to departure for information on the current regulations.

Money

In Cape Verde you can pay with the Escudo (100 CVE is ± € 0,91) or with Euros. There are a few cash dispensers on the islands, but we advise you to bring enough cash money. On board we accept Euros. We are unable to process payments made by bank-, giro- or credit card.

***Transfers**

Tap Air Portugal has daily flights from Amsterdam to Sal. Tap Air has a stopover in Lisbon where travellers from other parts of Europe can come aboard. In addition, there are several possibilities for charter flights:

From Düsseldorf: Fly Tui (www.tuifly.com)

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

From Amsterdam: 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.