



Cabo Verde

238 / POP 553,000

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Cafe Mindelo (p188)
- ➔ Maracujá (p184)
- ➔ Pipi's (p190)

Best Places to Sleep

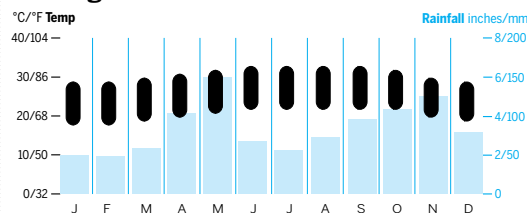
- ➔ Jardim do Vinho (p184)
- ➔ Kira's (p187)
- ➔ Casa Colonial (p187)

Why Go?

Jutting up from the Atlantic, some 500km west of Senegal, this stunning island chain has a captivating blend of mountains, beaches and peaceful seaside villages. On Santo Antão, craggy peaks hide piercing green valleys of flowers and sugar cane, ideal for epic hikes. São Vicente is home to the cultural capital of the islands, Mindelo, which throbs with bars and music clubs. On Sal and Maio, undulating windswept dunes merge with indigo-blue seas on unspoilt beaches of powdery white sand. Meanwhile far-flung Fogo and Brava in the southwest offer their own enchantments, from surreal volcanic landscapes to sparkling bays framed by towering peaks. Throw in the constant beat of music that Cabo Verde is famed for and the renowned *morabeza* (Creole for hospitality) of its people and you'll see why many have come – and never left.

When to Go

Santiago



Aug–Oct

So-called rainy season; very hot, and weeks can go by without a downpour.

Dec–Apr

Best time for surfing. Whale watching February to May.

Jun–Oct

Turtle-watching season.

SANTIAGO

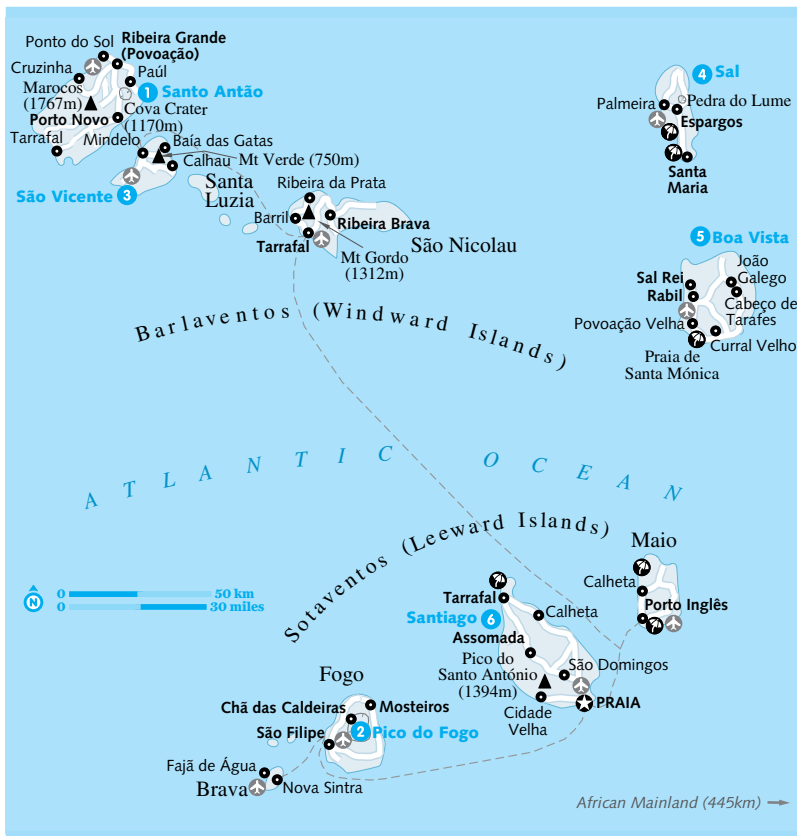
POP 266,000

Santiago, the largest island of the archipelago and the first to be settled, has a little bit of all the other islands. It has the sandy beaches, the desert plains, the verdant valleys and the mountainous interior as well as the capital, Praia. All this makes it a worthy stop on your Cabo Verdean rambles.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Praia's airport is, together with Sal's, the main air hub for the islands. **TACV** (Rua Serpa Pinto; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) has daily flights to Boa Vista, Fogo (São Filipe), Sal and São Vicente (Mindelo), three flights weekly to Maio and four weekly (via Sal or São Vicente) to São Nicolau. **TAP** (☎ 2615826; www.flytap.com; Praia International Airport) has one to two flights daily connecting Lisbon with Praia.



Cabo Verde Highlights

1 Santo Antão (p189)
Hiking the misty pine-clad ridges, the canyons and the valleys of Cabo Verde's most spectacular island.

2 Pico do Fogo (p190)
Admiring the views from the summit of a stunning, active volcano.

3 São Vicente (p186)
Following the sounds of *morna* and *coladeira* around music-loving seaside towns.

4 Sal (p191)
Riding the giant waves in one of the finest destinations in the archipelago for windsurfing.

5 Boa Vista (p191)
Relaxing on the beach and feasting on seafood at this wondrously laid-back island.

6 Santiago (p183)
Exploring the colonial ruins of the Cidade Velha followed by seaside drinks and dancing in nearby Praia.