

Cabo Verde

238 / POP 553,000

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Cafe Mindelo (p83)
- ➔ Maracujá (p77)
- ➔ Caleta (p86)
- ➔ Fado Crioula (p95)
- ➔ Pipi's (p90)

Best Places to Sleep

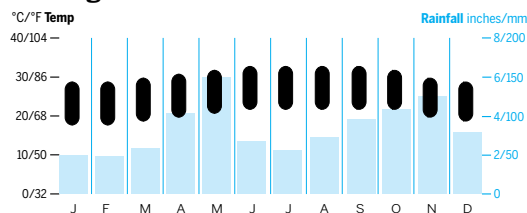
- ➔ Aldeia Manga (p87)
- ➔ Jardim do Vinho (p76)
- ➔ Kira's (p81)
- ➔ Migrante Guesthouse (p95)

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

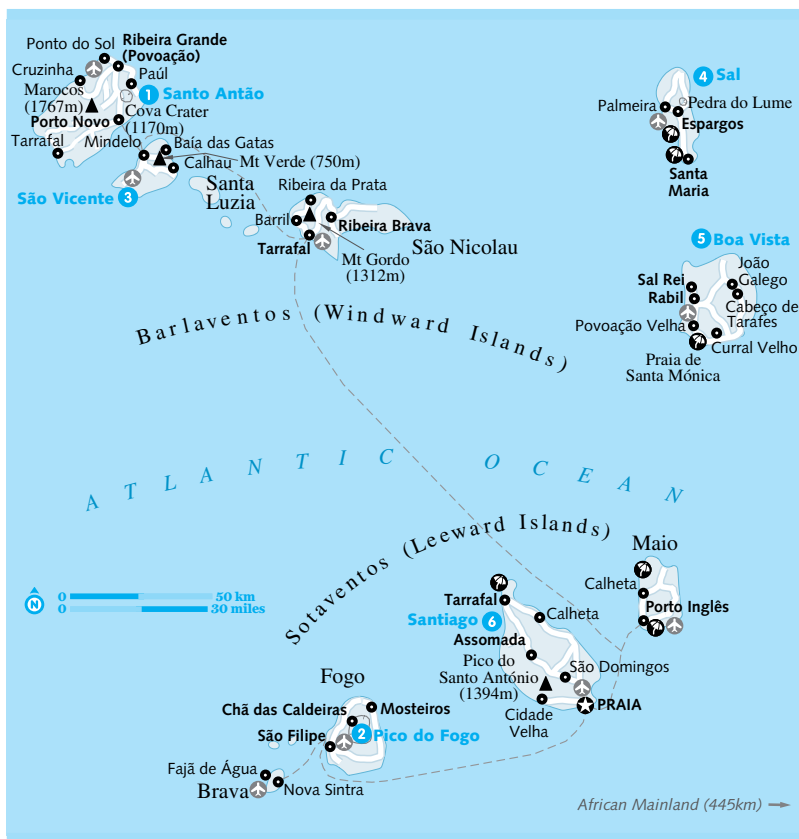
Santiago



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.



Cabo Verde Highlights

1 Santo Antão (p85)

Hiking the misty pine-clad ridges, the sheer canyons and the verdant valleys of Cabo Verde's most spectacular island.

2 Pico do Fogo (p90)

Admiring the views from the summit of the country's only active volcano, a stunning, cinder-clad, 2829m-high peak.

3 São Vicente (p80)

Following the melodic sounds of *morna* and *coladeira* to festive, open-air spots scattered around this music-loving seaside town.

4 Sal (p91)

Riding the giant waves off lovely white-sand beaches in one of the finest destinations in the archipelago for windsurfing.

5 Boa Vista (p94)

Relaxing on the beach and feasting on delicious seafood at this wondrously laid-back island.

6 Santiago (p75)

Exploring the colonial ruins of the picturesque Cidade Velha followed by seaside drinks and dancing in nearby Praia.

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 cap-

ital, Praia. All this makes it a worthy stop on your Cabo Verdean rambles.

i Getting There & Away

AIR

Praia's airport is, together with Sal's, the main air hub for the islands. **TACV** (Rua Serpa Pinto;