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Cape verde tourism guide

Go to the main contentNote: The U.S. State Department has issued a Level 4 travel bulletin to avoid travel to Cape Verde, and international commercial flights to Cape Verde are currently suspended. For now, use this guide as inspiration to satisfy your wandering safely from home. Cape Verde is located 350 miles off the coast of Senegal and is one of the most spectacular tropical islands in the world. Historically, however, this was not always the easiest place to survive. Dry and uninhabited, when the Portuguese landed here in the 15th century, the difficult ecology of Cape Verde is an extension of the nearby Sahara Desert and several volcanoes. Over the centuries, each of its 10 islands developed a distinct cultural taste, thanks to different groups of people who passed through and managed to survive there. Today, Cape Verde has survived the history of struggle and poverty with a rich and complex culture. The whole culture of Cape Verde seems to include the principles of yin and yang, struggle and celebration, light and darkness. The music best described by a mixture of slow Portuguese Fado and Caribbean pop often combines a happy instrumentation with pensive, deep lyrics; the food is spicy but full of umami; and the wine is light but deeply tasty (and shockingly cheap -- a good bottle easily knocks for less than \$5, even in restaurants). Innovative Cape Verdeans have used dry, mineralised soil to create a delicious kitchen starring bold wines, tasty coffee and a heartfelt product. Cape Verde's food, combined with fresh seafood and senegalese thiéboudiennne-like dishes, mixes the best traditions of the Portuguese and West African diaspora with tapas, stewed dishes you won't find anywhere else. An increasingly popular destination for Europeans, Cape Verde continues to fly under the radar to the Americans. We call Cape Verde one of the 20 places we dreamed of in 2020. To make the most of your trip, we did this 10-day route with the best things to do on the islands - but when you're unsure, look for sand and follow the music. Know before you go to avoid the rainy season, plan a visit between November and June. Head to São Vicente Island during the week of Shrove Tuesday (February 25) and catch the Cape Verde Carnival celebration, which combines Brazil's best party and parade traditions with West African influences. Since participation in the Cape Verde Carnival is lower than that of its Brazilian and Caribbean counterparts, it is relatively affordable. All cape verde festivals patch up music starring - the Gamboa music festival on Santiago Island is every year in May, with an eclectic mix of world-class DJs, local bands and guest musicians from all over Brazil and Africa performing a variety of genres including salsa, Latino, zouk, reggae and funaná. Is hit each island within 10 days, and each island has a different vibe than So the best strategy is to choose two or three islands and really nail it. Visitors with A U.S. passport do not need to buy a visa unless you stay more than a month. A fee of EUR 31 per person will be charged upon arrival, so exchange money for euros before leaving the United States. (The local currency of Cape Verde, escudo, is available from ATMs across the city). Unsplash/Rolands VarsbergsTraveling may be on hiatus, but that doesn't mean your dreams and design have to be. Marriott Bonvoy Boundless™ Card allows you to earn 6X Points on more than 7,000 Marriott Bonvoy participating hotels™ and 2X points for all other purchases, including upcoming flights. There's a card in front of you that's here for you now. Cape Verde's beaches offer more than just stunning white sand and clear water | ICHAUVEL/Getty ImagesDays 1-3: Start at beach time on Sal Island or São Vicente Dive deep in island life and fly to Sal, a tourist hub in Cape Verde. This island is a one-stop shop where you enjoy the sun, sand, sea and stars. Do as many active excursions as possible (dune buggies, sailing, horse riding, etc.) with a local company such as No Limits Adventure. Visit a beach, where turtles nest; stand in the bay of lemon shark; and visit historic towns such as the Pedra de Snow salt production centre so you can float in the world's second saltiest body of water. You can rent a car and guide yourself, but to get the most bang for your buck, I recommend an official tour with Reis Transport. If you prefer to go somewhere less crowded, choose São Vicente Island. This is the birthplace of the world-famous singer Cesária Évora. Cape Verdean music has evolved from African, Portuguese and Brazilian influences. The primary genre is a slow, blues style called Morna - a cesária Évora specialty. Évora's spirit is everywhere on his birth island; visit their home or grave in Mindelo and enjoy beautiful colonial architecture along the way. Évora often sang about São Vicente and described it a bit as Brazil/full of joy and colors. You can immediately see why, standing on top of Mount Verde, the highest point in Cape Verde, or driving through Madeira, a valley that grows most of the island's products, such as bananas, papaya, mangoes, palm dates and sugar cane, which is also a popular Brazilian crop. Boa Vista has endless white sandy beaches (and a random shipwreck). Eric Valente geostory/ShutterstockDays 4-6: Slow down on Boa Vista on Boa Vista Island to explore stunning beach diversity in a surprisingly small geographical area; there are direct flights from the hall. Some of the best beaches include White Sand and The Quiet Isolation of Praia da Chaves (also the best windsurfing spot); The golden sands of Praia de Santa Mónica, ideal for long, romantic walks or spotting whales; Praia de Atalanta, where you can explore the shipwreck in warm, shallow water; or Praia do Cabral, Cabral, The city of Sal Rei, the capital of Boa Vista. Slowly sink into the glowing sand with a cool drink and no plans. If you're tired of the water bubbling, rent a quad bike through the Quade Zone to take advantage of Boa Vista's unique ecology. The must-visit is the Viana Desert, an extension of the Sahara that will take your breath away. Desert sand also promotes Boa Vista's reputation for excellent ceramics, so stop in the town of Rabil, the former capital of Boa Vista, to buy traditionally made ceramic products. An unforgettable visit is the Museu dos Naufragios (Castaways Museum), where guests perform with the recently crashed ship banished and are led on a journey through the mystical history of the islands. For a more academic time, you can rent Cau Tours for a detailed review in Sal Rei. Days 7-8: Food, wine, and volcanic black sand on Fogotake by ferry or plane from Boa Vista to fogos other secedy volcanic island, a hungry traveler's favorite stop in Cape Verde. Chã das Caldeiras, an active volcano in the middle of the island, looms over the entire Fogo and is responsible for the dry but nutritious soil that guides Cape Verde's wine and coffee industry. Even the most experienced hikers should hire a local guide to take you to the top of the volcano. Get ready to commit - most excursions start very early and last all day, leading directly to the top of the volcano and then making several stops on the way back to the local villages that grow excellent wine and coffee. Be sure to ask if your tour price includes food and drink at these stops, and bring money - you want to pull back at least a few bottles of wine or goat cheese. Don't leave without ordering some Fogó culinary specialties such as dijagacida (a dense, tasty, starched dish made with corn, fish and beans - think of it like red beans & rice meets mofongo), pastel de milho (cake made from corn), bissap (hibiscus flower juice) or calabaceira (baobab fruit juice). Days 9-10: Cape Verde's largest island, Santiago Cape Verde's largest island. Santiago, lives in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde and the largest city. Santiago is easy to get around with Uber and taxis, and has easier access to shopping and a wider range of restaurants and accommodation. Praia also offers front row access to the best clubs with live music. If you want to see a tour of the whole island, contact Bu Country Tours - get a taste of everything from praia market to the traditional Cape Verde cooking presentation and as a stop on a banana and coconut plantation. Another easy drive from Praia is through the lovely Serra Malagueta Natural Park in the north of Santiago. Or take a quick jaunt to Cidade Velha, the original 15th-century Portuguese settlement with cobble streets and dazzling views of the islands. No matter which route you take, no trip to Praia (or all of Cape not perfect without an evening at Quintal da Musica with delicious dinner and unforgettable dinner traditional music forms of Cape Verde, such as morna and funaná. Close your trip on a high note by ordering cajipirinha and gambas grelhadas (grilled prawns) to start, followed by a bottle of crispy local white wine Cha Vinho Do Fogo and arroz de polvo (octopus) for a meal you'll never forget, just like sad music. Continue: Go to the West African continental Cape Verde has aroused your interest in West Africa, now is the time to explore this region, which is connected under the ecowas flag (think of it as the European Union of West Africa, accompanied by infrastructure and currency that is currently underway). There are many options to travel between nations, so don't be afraid to jump or rent a van and hire a driver for a long trip. One of the easiest places for Americans to start is Ghana, an English-speaking nation with several direct flights from the east coast. Ghana has wonderful food, wildlife and historic excursions, as well as a vibrant African-American alien community thriving after a successful Year of Return, a 2019-long celebration that encouraged members of the African diaspora to return to the motherland. Senegal is a close second option; Its capital, Dakar, is a rapidly rising arts and cultural center. Dakar has stunning beaches, museums, cuisine and historic places to visit, as well as a fun club scenery. If you want a quieter but no less enjoyable stop, consider visiting Togo, a small French-speaking nation between Ghana and Benin. You will find inexpensive safaris, voodoo origin and probably the best fofou that the region has to offer. MEET THE WRITERBecki Iverson is a thrillist writer and a keen lover of all art, food and tourism. You can follow her widespread passions on her blog, Compendium, or on social media on Instagram. When was the last time you were in Cape Verde? June 2019, at the tail end of a dream trip and honeymoon through West Africa. What drew you there? One of my first friendship experiences with my husband was over music. I had always loved Cesár Évora's soulful voice, and he also loved his music right away. We played her catalog constantly - she became such a favourite that we included several songs in our wedding. It became an important task for us to visit his home country one day, and when we realized we were close to our honeymoon in West Africa, we had to spend extra money to make sure we got there to respect. What was the most surprising thing about a place you didn't expect? The experience of Creole identity, now shared by most of Cape Verdeans, was striking for an interracial couple like my husband and I - especially from a place like America, where people tend to draw steep lines between an individual's racial identity. It's one of the few places we haven't gotten in public together (New Orleans is the only one like it I can think of). This story in the LA Times captures Cape Verde's Verde, multi-racial dynamics better than ever. Number one can't miss a recommendation for a visitor? I visit Quintal da Musica for a long dinner, cocktails and live music. There is no better way to capture the spirit and contradictions of Cape Verde than to spend time listening to Morna and Coladeira. Cape Verdeans, for example, have struggled to define their culture for centuries - are they more African? Portuguese? Or something completely new? One of Cesária's most famous songs is called Africa Nossa (or Our Africa). It has a very upbeat, festive musical tone, but contains some pretty serious lyrics like these: The sky has clearedConstructiveness has brightened Time has come to face with the reality sufferers have soothed their pain to live in peace and progressMae will surely spend time with some songs, even before you leave, to get a richer understanding of the propulsion nature of this culture. How easy is it to move around for English speakers? Cape Verde has been a very stable democracy for over 30 years and is quite safe for tourists. I recommend using the local tour desk to connect to destinations or schedule excursions. Travelling between islands can be difficult, and spontaneous travel and accommodation between islands is particularly difficult to navigate. Two great options are Todahora Tours or Cape Verde Vacation and Services. However, if you only want to visit one or two places slowly alone or don't connect to try to pack into many activities on multiple islands, you can strain it without any problems. You'll find travel amenities like Uber and Airbnb on specially populated islands like Sal, Santiago or Boa Vista. What's your best advice when someone goes for the first time? This is a place worth planning in advance. Since travel between islands is relatively limited (usually only a couple of flights or ferry options a day), it is difficult to jump spontaneously between them. It's also like any other island nation where the pace is slower than urban continental life, so expect things to take longer than you're probably used to. What's the next big trip you've planned for 2020? We have several friends in Sweden and Norway, so we hope to see them and explore parts of both countries that I haven't seen yet (mostly the northernmost regions). Sign up here for our daily Thrillist email, get Next Flight Out to get more travel coverage and subscribe here to our YouTube channel to get a fix for the best food/drink/fun. food / drink / fun.

